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SPECIAL
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ISSUE
SPOTLIGHTING
MARVEL'S®
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ARAGONÉS

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

SALICRUP'S SECTION

Happy Holidays, everyone! This special issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE spotlights our entire line of Graphic Novels. If you can't find any copies of the MARVEL MASTERWORKS hardcovers left at your favorite (or even your second or third favorite) comics shops, these Graphic Novels make great X-mas gifts also. And if you don't know what the MARVEL MASTERWORKS are, then race ahead to the MARVEL MASTERWORKS article in this issue and hope that your favorite (or even your fourth or fifth favorite) comics shop hasn't sold out yet.

Now that we've got all that holiday stuff out of the way, I can get back to my never-ending crusade against the use of the term Marvel Zombie. In case you came in late, I'll explain. Seems there are a lot of folks out there who enjoy calling people who've decided to make theirs Marvel, Marvel Zombies. Basically, I just don't think it's in anyone's interest to engage in name-calling, and I said so in an editorial a few issues back. Who would've guessed that such a view would stir so much controversy? For example, **George J. Doro**, of Denver, CO writes, "I'm afraid your MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE editorial about the term 'Marvel Zombie' was way off the mark. Marvel Zombies are not, as you wrote, 'avid Marvel followers.' I consider myself quite a fan of your comics, and over the years, I've developed a great fondness for many of your characters. About 40% of my comics budget is spent on Marvel; no other company gets that big a chunk, and I buy a lot of comics. But I will not hesitate to label someone a 'Marvel Zombie' if he or she fits the following description:

"A Marvel Zombie buys *only* Marvels. He or she would likely never even consider trying a comic published by another company. I've heard several such fans insult your competitors' comics, books they have made clear they've *never* read. Who's being prejudiced here, **Jim**? . . . It is, from my point of view at least, not intended as an attack on Marvel or Marvel's fans, but rather on an attitude that is little more than a narrow-minded obsession . . .

"If any part of this letter seems to be against Marvel, it shouldn't. No attack was intended, and none should be inferred. Trust me on this, folks; I know what I'm talking about because, yes, I was a Teenage Marvel Zombie."

Well, George, did anyone call you names when you were? Perhaps that's why so-called Marvel Zombies today attack comics they haven't even read. A name-calling war has begun, and people are trying to save face by using similar juvenile tactics. Don't get me wrong, friends and neighbors! I'm not in favor of "narrow-minded obsession" either. I'm just not convinced, calling people names is going to help.

More next issue. You've been warned.

—Jim Salicrup

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel**, **Epic**, **Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing a **May** cover date.

One of the greatest heroes of the '30s returns! **The Captain** takes on **Iron Man**! **Groo** hunts for an antacid! And that's just a hint of the excitement you can expect next month! Don't risk missing out on the fun. Tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles right now!

Titles Shipping January 5
On Sale January 26

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #254 — While **Daredevil's** been training a sightless boy to develop hyper-senses like his own, **the Kingpin of Crime** has been busy too! He's got a new weapon to use against **Daredevil**: her name's **Typhoid Mary**, and her psychic powers could spell doom for the man without fear! "Typhoid" is written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **PSI-FORCE** #19 — Things look bad when the malevolent **Medusa Web** traps half the **Psi Force** team in a San Diego shopping mall. But when the team decides to fight back, all of San Diego had better watch out! "The Masada Defense" is written by **Fabian Nicieza** and illustrated by **Ron Lim**. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #8 — White collar criminals, beware! **The Punisher's** on Wall Street, and he's armed to the teeth! "Ghost of Wall Street" is written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Whilce Portacio**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. $1.00.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #38 — **Nathan Lubensky** has been robbed! And he's determined to go to any length to retrieve one of the stolen articles — **Aunt May's** engagement ring! Wait'll you see what **Spider-Man** does once he finds out about the crime! Written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. 75¢.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #32 — The winsome **Wasp** has come to visit the **Whackos**. But even with her high-flying help, can the **West Coasters** defeat the mammoth menace of **Yetrigar**? Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 75¢.

☐ **MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE** #13 — Can it be? The sinister **Skeletor** — the Master of the Universe?! And a second **Prince Adam** in Eternia?! Unless **He-Man** can regain his sword and power, Eternia will never be the same again! "Lifetime, Part 2" is written by **George Caragonne**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF'S FUNHOUSE** #7 — When **Heathcliff** and **Iggy** enter a lost world of dinosaurs, a baby apatosaurus mistakes **Heathcliff** for its mother! Motherhood never had such a time! It's hilario-saurus as **Heathcliff** becomes "A Dinosaur's Mother!" Written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #18 — It's one thing to know that your super powers will kill you someday. But as the **Morituri's Scatterbrain** learns, it's another thing entirely to have death stare you in the face! "Will!" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Brent Anderson**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **TALES OF G.I. JOE** #5 — Re-presenting from G.I. JOE #5: A not-so-innocent parade is the cover for Cobra's latest attack on G.I. Joe! "Tanks for the Memories," written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino** and **Mike Esposito**. Baxter paper. 32 pages with no ads. $1.50.

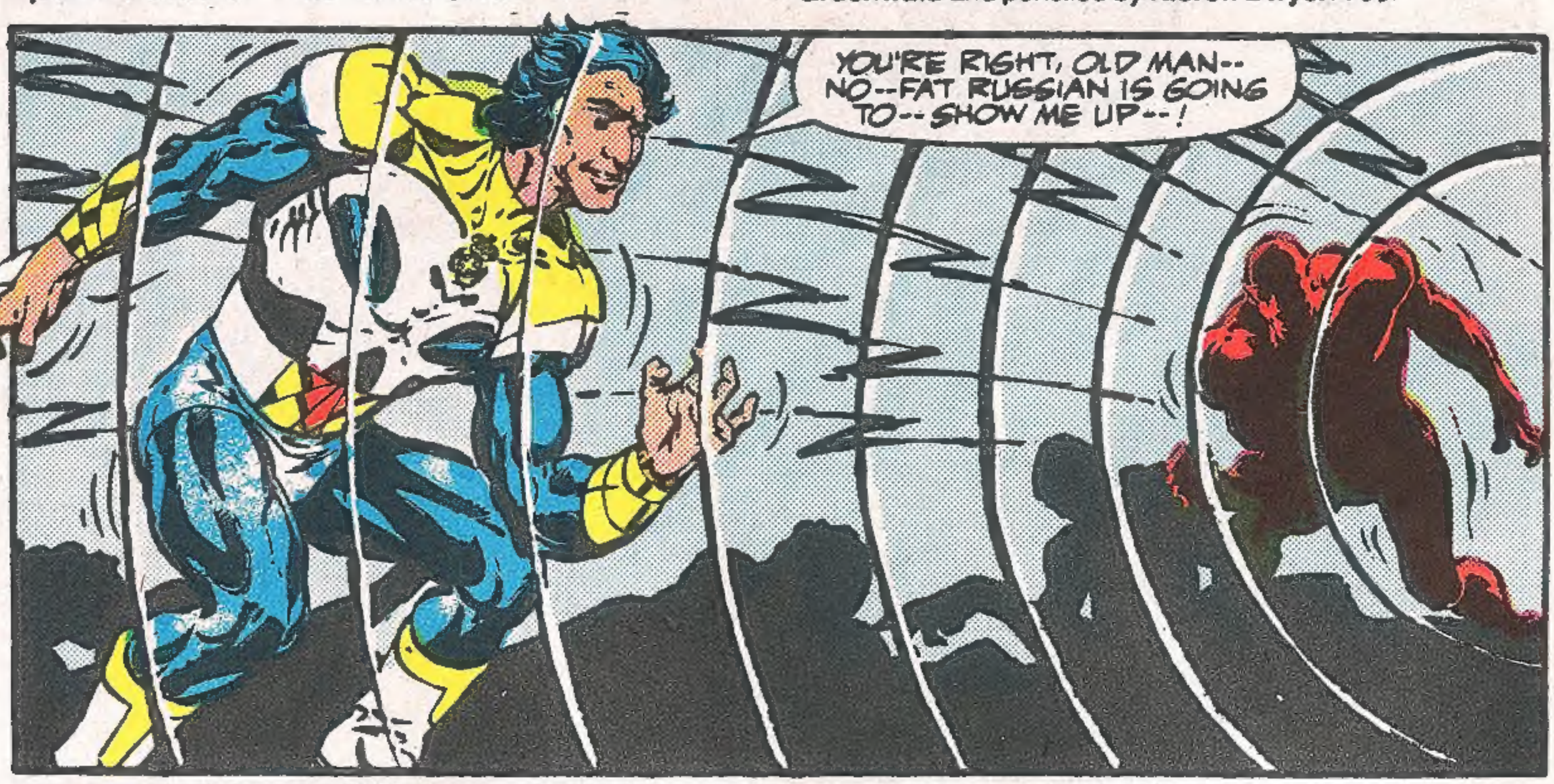
☐ **CONAN THE KING** #46 — While **King Conan** faces his greatest victory on the battlefield, his wife and unborn child are under attack by the sorcerer **Caliastros**! Can **King Conan** prevent the greatest tragedy of his life, or will he succumb to an army of the dead? "The Warlord of Koth" is written by **Don Kraar**, penciled by **Mike Docherty**, and inked by **Fraja Bator**. 48 pages. $1.50.

☐ **THUNDERCATS** #23 — A war between rival mountain tribes leads the **Thundercats** into battle with the only foes they can never defeat — evil versions of themselves! "Through a Dark Glass" is written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Rodney Ramos**, and inked by **Frank Springer**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

Titles Shipping January 12
On Sale February 2

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #63 — **Illyana** takes on **the Brood** — and **the X-Men**! "Redemption" is written by **Chris Claremont** and **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Bo Hampton**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. $1.00.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #341 — There's trouble brewing for good guys and bad guys alike in the *three* thrill-packed tales contained in this special issue! Now that **Iron Man** has turned renegade, **the Captain** has decided to bring him in — but his old friend and ally isn't coming quietly! Meanwhile, the world meets the new **Captain America's** partner, **Battle Star** . . . and learns the secret of the new **Cap** as well! And as if that weren't enough, an all-out war is breaking out within the sinister **Serpent Soicety**! "Break-In," "Free Speech," and "In Our Midst" are written by **Mark Gruenwald** and penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**. 75¢.



Wait'll you see what Strikeforce: Morituri's Punisher does to the alien Horde!

The answer to Mary Jane's fear is in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300.

☐ **SOLO AVENGERS #6** — It's two, two, two comic books in one!

Remember the Communist **Red Skull** of the 1950s? Well, neither did **Hawkeye** — at least, not until the ace archer found himself in Algeria, trying to stop this **Red Skull** from triggering a nuclear holocaust! "Algeria Is for Archers" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**.

Plus: **The Falcon** takes on **Scatterbrain**, the brand new super-villain who's driving Harlem wild! Written by **Dan Mishkin**, penciled by **Tom Grindberg**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

☐ **STRANGE TALES #14** — Two stories for the price of one!

Cloak and **Dagger** welcome guest stars galore as they face off against **the Punisher** . . . with **Power Pack** caught in the middle! What could we call such a story but "Unruly Business?" Written by **Terry Austin** with art by **June Brigman** and **Bob Wiacek**.

Also: The last time **Doctor Strange** faced the awesome menace of **Shuma-Gorath**, he had the power of the sorcerer supreme to help him. But now, **Doc** no longer has that power, and **Shuma-Gorath's** back! Can even a master of the mystic arts survive? "Apogee" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Richard Case**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. 75¢.

☐ **ALF #2** — When **Bryan** takes **Alf's** anti-gravity belt to a school science fair, the result is chaos like the **Tanner** household has rarely seen! **Alf** flying off into the air, **Bryan** and **Alf** stealing off into the night, Nobel Prizes . . . that's just the start of the second issue of the comic book adventures of one of America's hottest TV stars! "All's Fair" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

A Limited Series is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A Graphic Novel is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.

A Digest is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.

A Trade Paperback is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.

Bookshelf format is a high-quality, stiff-covered comic book edition.

A Direct Sales title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #58** — On their way back to Earth, **Alpha Flight** detours into an alien dimension ruled by the wicked **Dream Queen**. Shock follows shock as the **Alphans** discover that the **Dream Queen** not only intends to add Earth to her realm — but she plans to use **Alpha Flight** to do it! "Live World" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Jim Lee**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #39** — Believing that he's eaten his faithful dog, **Ruferto**, everybody's favorite blundering barbarian embarks on an epic quest . . . for stomach medicine! Created and illustrated by **Sergio Aragonés** with cheese dip by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300** — Double the length! Double the action! In this special 25th anniversary issue, **Spider-Man** battles a deadly super-villain who can not only avoid his spider-sense but also simulate *all* of his super powers! You won't believe your eyes when you meet the web-slinger's newest (well, sort of) and possibly deadliest foe — **Venom**! Written by **David Michelinie** with art by **Todd McFarlane**. $1.25.

☐ **SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #9** — From the pages of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #s 77–79: **Spider-Man** slugs it out with the **Lizard** — with the **Human Torch** caught in the middle! And then, **Spidey** must unravel the mystery of New York's *other* wall-crawler! "In the Blaze of Battle," "Night of the Prowler," and "To Prowl No More" are written by **Stan Lee**, with art by **John Buscema**, **Jim Mooney**, and **John Romita Sr.** A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #147** — **Conan** may have led the legions of Nemedia into victory after victory, but the Nemedians still shower him with suspicion and jealousy. Will the mighty Cimmerian meet his end in valiant battle or through an assassin's blade in the back? "Besieger of Cities" is written by **Charles Dixon**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. A black and white Marvel Magazine. For mature readers. $2.00.

☐ **SAVAGE LAND** Trade Paperback — Re-presenting from MARVEL FANFARE #s 1–4 the saga of **Spider-Man**, **the X-Men**, and **Ka-Zar** vs. **Brainchild** and **Sauron** in the Savage Land! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, **Dave Cockrum** and **Paul Smith**, and inked by **Mike Golden**, **Bob McLeod**, and **Terry Austin**. With a new cover by **John Buscema**. $5.95.

☐ **MOEBIUS** Graphic Novel #5 — It's the worldwide premiere of a brand new story by **Moebius**! The interstellar repairmen from "Upon a Star," **Atan** and **Stel**, return to explore a mysterious, intergalactic paradise. What will they find within the "Gardens of Aedena?" Written and illustrated by **Moebius**. For mature readers. 72 pages. $9.95.

Titles Shipping January 19
On Sale February 9

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #291 — A quiet dinner party honoring the Mayor turns into a battle royal when one of the **Avengers'** closest friends turns into a rampaging monster! And just wait till you see what's happening with the **Avengers'** old foe, **Kang the Conqueror**! Written by **Walter Simonson**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #62 — The Epic Shadow Line Saga! Find out what makes it different from any other Epic series! Plus: **Stan's** Soapbox, **Hembeck's** Page, Marvel Trivia Quiz, and much, much more! Direct Sales only. 50¢.

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☐ **D.P. 7 #19** — There's a thrilling cliffhanger in store for **D.P. 7** . . . and we mean that literally! Can anything save the members of the team when they take a 25-mile fall into **the Pitt**? **Spitfire** guest stars in "Pitfall!" Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. 75¢.

☐ **JUSTICE** #19 — In the wake of the cataclysm which created **the Pitt**, the National Security Council searches for **Justice** — not to capture him, but to hire him! If **Justice** accepts their offer, it may mean the death of all the paranormals in the New Universe! Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Lee Weeks**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #343 — **Bruce Banner's** wife has been kidnaped by giant robots, and **the Hulk** is determined to rescue her. But that's just what the lethal **Leader** wants! "Beyond Redemption" is written by **Peter David** and drawn by **Todd McFarlane**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #211 — Re-presenting the awesome climax to **Spider-Man** and **the Punisher's** first battle with the original **Tarantula** from THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #135! Featuring the origin of the original **Tarantula**! "Shoot-Out in Central Park" is written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Ross Andru**, and inked by **Frank Giacoia** and **Dave Hunt**. Also: An all-new **Spider-Ham** story by **Michael Eury** and **Joe Albelo**. 75¢.

☐ **SILVER SURFER #11** — In the wake of the climactic **Galactus** vs **the Elders of the Universe** battle, **the Silver Surfer** and **Nova** find themselves free of their past — and facing a very uncertain future. Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #229 — A special Christmas story where the **X-Men** play **Santa Claus** to the world! 'Twas the Night . . . " is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Marc Silvestri**, and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #206 — In the tradition of the acclaimed **Conan** sagas "Conan the Conqueror" and "A Witch Shall Be Born" comes the epic all-new trilogy that marks the coming of a nomadic horde worse than the **Huns** — "Heku!" Part 1: "Sands Upon the Earth" is written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #71 — The **Joes** can beat just about anybody in a *fair* fight. But there's no telling what will happen when they head into the jungles of South America to try to end the unscrupulous business practices of a shady corporation! "Bail Out" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. $1.00.

☐ **MUPPET BABIES** #19 — There are clues every step of the way when **Kermit**, **Piggy**, and the gang enter a world of mystery! Can *you* solve the mystery before *they* do? "The Museum of Natural Mystery" is written by **Laura Hitchcock** and illustrated by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **VISIONARIES** #3 — A helpless woman is trapped, and only the super-fast **Witterquick** can save her. But rescuing the woman may have more serious consequences than **Witterquick** suspects! Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY** #4 — Hokey smokes! This comic book has been hijacked! When the villainous **Boris** and **Natasha** decide to tell the world their side of the story, they take over BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY to do it! "Ve are the real heroes," says **Boris**. "The moose and squirrel are the bad guys!" "The Backwards Boys" is written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

Titles Shipping January 26
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☐ **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** #314 — Will **Ms. Marvel** be able to resist the temptations of **Belasco**? How will her decision affect the future of the **FF**? Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Joe Sinnett**. 75¢.

SUPER-VILLAIN CHECKLIST

Arioch — STRANGE TALES #14
Dream Queen — ALPHA FLIGHT #58
Firepower — IRON MAN #230
Kang — THE AVENGERS #291
Kingpin — DAREDEVIL #254, STRANGE TALES #14
The Leader — THE INCREDIBLE HULK #343
The Mongoose — THOR #391
Red Skull — SOLO AVENGERS #6
Scatterbrain — SOLO AVENGERS #6
Serpent Society — CAPTAIN AMERICA #341
Shuma-Gorath — STRANGE TALES #14
Sidewinder — CAPTAIN AMERICA #341
The new Tarantula — THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #138
Typheid Mary — DAREDEVIL #254
Venom — THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300
Viper — CAPTAIN AMERICA #341
Yetriger — WEST COAST AVENGERS #32

☐ **IRON MAN #230** — The United States government has decided that it wants **Iron Man** dead — and they've sent the one-man nuclear attack **Firepower** to do the job! By the time the smoke clears, either **Iron Man** or **Firepower** will be dead — and it's not the one you expect! Written by **David Michelinie** and **Bob Layton**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **THE 'NAM #18** — **Lieutenant Alarnick** wants to cover himself in glory — by having his men wipe out a peaceful Vietnamese village! Can his men change his mind? And more importantly, when **Alarnick's** plan takes an unexpected turn, can they save his life? "Bombs Bursting" is written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Wayne Vansant**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #138** — The new **Tarantula's** in the U.S. to hunt South American refugees and illegal immigrants, and only **Spider-Man** stands in his way. But before **Spidey** can stop the **Tarantula**, he's going to have to take on the **Tarantula's** partner — the new **Captain America**! Written by **Gerry Conway** with art by **Sal Buscema**. $1.00.

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☐ **THE STAR BRAND #13** — At last! The birth of **Ken Connell's** child! **The Star Brand** is passed on for the first time — and wait'll you see who gets it! Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Tom Palmer**. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **THOR #391** — Usually, **Thor** is on the trail of a deadly villain, but the tables have turned as **Thor** goes from hunter to hunted! Even with the help of the ever-amazing **Spider-Man**, can the thunder god halt "The Madness of the Mongoose"? Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Bret Blevins**. 75¢.

☐ **X-FACTOR #28** — **X-Factor** explores their new headquarters, **Apocalypse's** former ship. But will its secrets lead the team into disaster? Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Terry Shoemaker**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. $1.00.

☐ **CARE BEARS #16** — The evil **No-Heart** is up to his most dastardly as he takes on the shape of loving **Tenderheart Bear** to destroy the **Care Bears** from within! But what **No-Heart** doesn't suspect is that the **Care Bears** have their own way of battling this sort of thing: his name is . . . ***Tin*-derheart**! "The Spare Care Bear Caper" is written by **Dave Polter**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #21** — From the pages of THE UNCANNY X-MEN #115: The trail of the half-man-half-dinosaur **Sauron** leads the **X-Men** into a life-and-death struggle in the heart of the prehistoric Savage Land! "Visions of Death" is written by **Chris Claremont** and penciled by **John Byrne**. Plus: A new story by **Chris Claremont** and **John Bolton**. 32 pages with no ads. $1.00.

☐ **TRANSFORMERS #40** — **Grimlock** vs. **Fortress Maximus**! It's a fight to the death on the moon for the leadership of the **Autobots**! But there may not be any **Autobots** to lead, for the **Decepticons** are launching the most savage attack ever! "S.R.O. (Slaying Room Only)" is written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. $1.00.

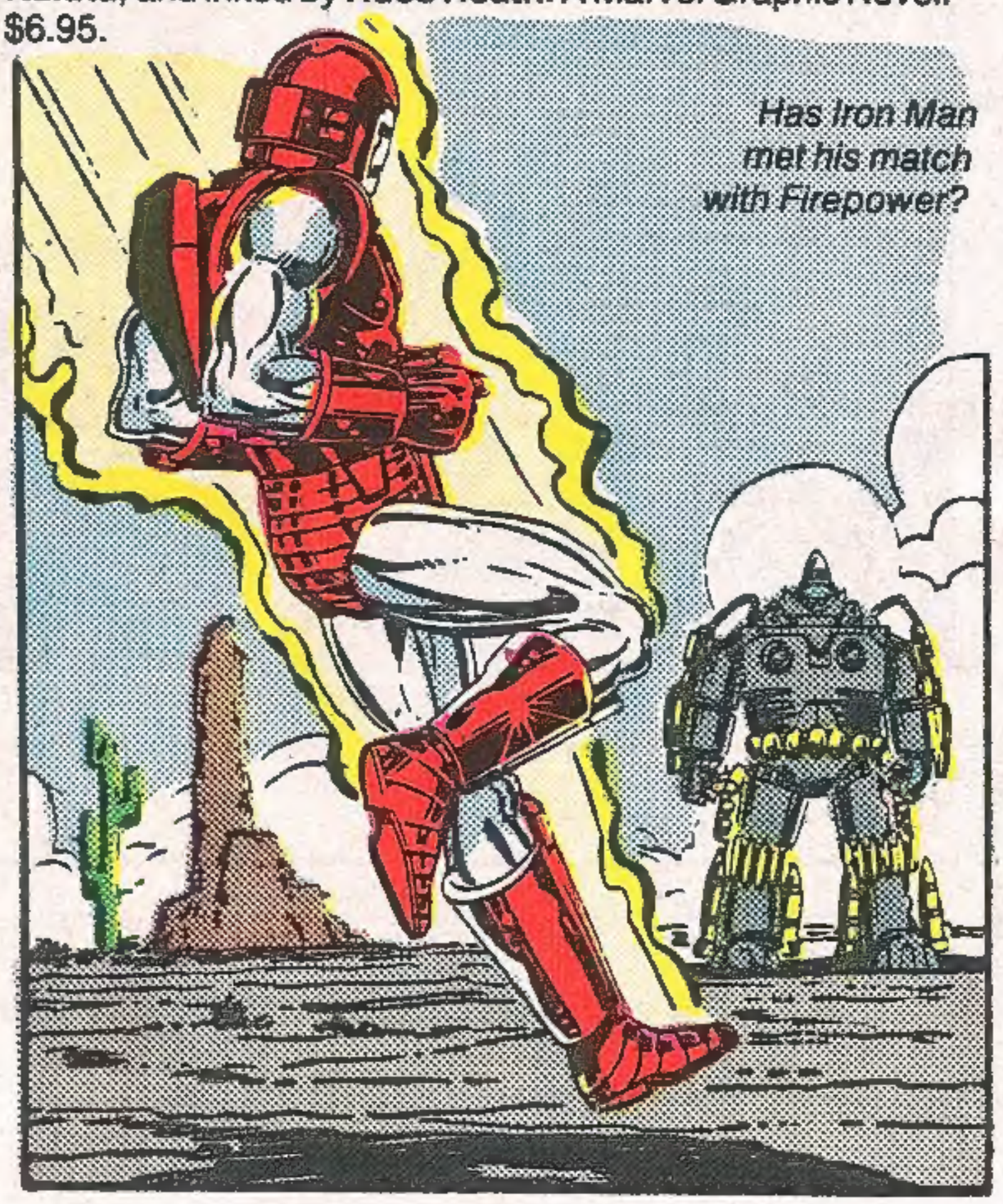
☐ **TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE #9** — Re-presenting from TRANSFORMERS #s 17 and 18: An all-out war on the **Transformers'** home planet of Cybertron costs one of the **Autobots** his life! And his closest friend is out for revenge! "The Smelting Pool" and "Bridge to Nowhere" are written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **CONAN SAGA #12** — Re-presenting from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #2 the comic-book adaptations of the classic **Conan** tales, "Black Colossus" and "Mountain of the Moon God" written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Alfredo Alcala** and **Pablo Marcos**. Plus: re-presenting the full-color cover painting from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #2 by **Boris Vallejo**. A Marvel black and white magazine. $2.00.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #6** — Our issue-by-issue synopsis of the lives of the **X-Men** continues, complete with full-color reproductions of every cover! In this issue: THE UNCANNY X-MEN #s 109–130, featuring the new **X-Men's** first battle with **Magneto**! Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. Direct Sales only. 48 pages. Baxter paper. $2.95.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE** Trade Paperback #9 — Reprinting issues #17 and 18 of the Limited Series in a high-quality paperback edition. Learn about all your favorite dead characters, including **Captain Mar-Vell**, **Jocasta**, and **the Green Goblin**, in the Book of the Dead! Written by **Peter Sanderson** with art by **Jim Starlin**, **Ron Frenz**, **Sal Buscema**, **Kevin Nowlan**, and just about the whole blamed Marvel Bullpen! 128 pages. $6.95.

☐ **THE SHADOW: HITLER'S ASTROLOGER** — Before **the Punisher**, before **Elektra**, before **the Shroud**, there was **the Shadow**. And now, after two years in the making, the 1930s pulp magazine and radio hero returns in an all-new adventure! The weed of crime may bear bitter fruit, but what will happen when the ebon-cloaked avenger takes on a murderous band of Nazis? Heh heh. **The Shadow** knows . . . Written by **Denny O'Neil**, penciled by **Michael Kaluta**, and inked by **Russ Heath**. A Marvel Graphic Novel. $6.95.



MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

Wonder Man fights alone in WEST COAST AVENGERS!

Titles Shipping February

DAREDEVIL #255 — by **Nocenti, Romita Jr.,** and **Williamson**
NEW MUTANTS #64 — by **L. Simonson, Blevins,** and **Austin.**
PSI FORCE #20 — by **Nicieza** and **Lim.**
THE PUNISHER #9 — by **Baron, Portacio,** and **Williams.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #39 — by **Nicieza** and **Saviuk.**
WEST COAST AVENGERS #33 — by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Machlan.**
G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #11 — by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
THUNDERCATS #24 — by **Conway, Delbo,** and **Simons.**
YOUNG WIZARDS #1
DR. ZERO #1 — by **Chichester, Clark, Cowan,** and **Sienkiewicz.**
WHAT IF . . . ? SPECIAL #1
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #19 — by **Gillis** and **Anderson.**
TALES OF G.I. JOE #6 — by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
S.H.I.E.L.D. #1 — by **Harras, Neary,** and **DeMulder.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #59 — by **Mantlo, Lee,** and **DeZuniga.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #342 — by **Gruenwald, Dwyer,** and **Hunt.**
SOLO AVENGERS #7 — by **DeFalco, Bright,** and **Rubinstein**
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #301 — by **Michelinie** and **McFarlane.**
STRANGE TALES #15 — stories by **Austin, Blevins, Gillis, Case,** and **Emberlin.**
GROO THE WANDERER #40 — by **Aragones** and **Evanier.**
HEATHCLIFF #24 — by **DeCesare, Kremer,** and **Roettcher.**
POWER PACK #37 — by **L. Simonson, Bogdanove,** and **Berta.**
STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #10
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #148 — by **Dixon, Kwapisz,** and **Chan.**
SIX FROM SIRIUS Trade Paperback — by **Moench** and **Gulacy.**
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #63
AVENGERS #292 — by **W. Simonson, Buscema,** and **Palmer.**
D.P. 7 #20 — by **Gruenwald, Ryan,** and **Bulanadi.**
INCREDIBLE HULK #344 — by **David** and **McFarlane.**
JUSTICE #20 — by **David** and **Lim.**
MARVEL TALES #212 — by **Conway, Andru, Esposito** and **Eury, Kupperberg** and **Albelo.**
SILVER SURFER #12 — by **Englehart, Rogers,** and **Rubinstein.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #230 — by **Claremont, Silvestri,** and **Green.**
AIR RAIDERS #5 — by **Rose** and **Jones.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #207 — by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
G.I. JOE #72 — by **Hama, Wagner,** and **Emberlin.**
FLINTSTONE KIDS #6 — by **Gallagher, Colon,** and **Milgrom.**
FOOFUR #6 — by **Gallagher, Brown,** and **Roettcher.**
SILVERHAWKS #6 — by **Perry, Bender,** and **Fredericks.**
MARSHAL LAW #4 — by **Mills** and **O'Neil.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #315 — by **Englehart, Buscema,** and **Sinnott.**
IRON MAN #231 — by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
THE 'NAM #19 — by **Murray, Vansant,** and **Isherwood.**
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #139 — by **Conway** and **S. Buscema.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #22 — by **Claremont, Byrne, Austin,** and **Bolton.**
THOR #392 — by **DeFalco, Frenz,** and **Blevins.**
X-FACTOR #29 — by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
MADBALLS #10 — by **Gallagher, Post,** and **Edelman.**
ST. GEORGE #1
THE TRANSFORMERS #41 — by **Budiansky, Delbo,** and **Hunt.**
ALIEN LEGION #4 — by **Dixon** and **Stroman.**
G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #10 — by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE

AVENGERS #6 — compiled by **Olshevsky.**
CONAN SAGA #13 — by **Thomas** and **Buscema.**
PUNISHER/DAREDEVIL #1
CLOAK & DAGGER Graphic Novel — by **Mantlo, Stroman,** and **Williamson.**
VIDEO JACK #4 — by **Bates** and **Giffen.**

Titles Shipping March

DAREDEVIL #256 — by **Nocenti, Romita Jr.,** and **Williamson.**
NEW MUTANTS #65 — by **L. Simonson, Blevins,** and **Austin.**
PSI FORCE #21 — by **Nicieza** and **Lim.**
THE PUNISHER #10 — by **Baron, Portacio,** and **Williams.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #40 — by **David** and **Mayerik.**
WEST COAST AVENGERS #34 — by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Machlan.**
MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #14 — by **Carragonne, Wilson,** and **Bulanadi.**
HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE #8 — by **DeCesare, Kremer,** and **Roettcher.**
THUNDERCATS #25 — by **Zimmerman** and **Severin.**
BLACK PANTHER #1 — by **Gillis, Cowan,** and **de la Rosa.**
CONAN THE KING #47 — by **Kraar, Docherty,** and **Beter.**
TALES OF G.I. JOE #7 — by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
S.H.I.E.L.D. #2 — by **Harras, Neary,** and **DeMulder.**
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #20 — by **Gillis** and **Anderson.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #40 — by **Mantlo, Lee,** and **DeZuniga.**
ALF #3 — by **Gallegher, Manak,** and **Severin.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #343 — by **Gruenwald** and **Dwyer.**
SOLO AVENGERS #8 — by **DeFalco, Bright,** and **Rubinstein**
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #302 — by **Michelinie** and **McFarlane.**
STRANGE TALES #16 — stories by **Austin, Blevins, Gillis, Case,** and **Emberlin.**
GROO THE WANDERER #41 — by **Aragones** and **Evanier.**
HEATHCLIFF Trade Paperback
POWERLINE #1 — by **Chichester, Clark, Ross,** and **McLeod.**
SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #10
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #149 — by **Dixon, Kwapisz,** and **Chan.**
HAWKEYE Trade Paperback
MOEBIUS #7 — by **Moebius.**
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #64
AVENGERS #293 — by **W. Simonson, J. Buscema,** and **Palmer.**
D.P. 7 #21 — by **Gruenwald, Ryan,** and **Bulanadi.**
INCREDIBLE HULK #345 — by **David** and **McFarlane.**
JUSTICE #21 — by **David** and **Lim.**
MARVEL TALES #213 — by **Wein, Andru, Mooney, DeZuniga** and **Eury, Kupperberg** and **Albelo.**
SILVER SURFER #13 — by **Englehart** and **Rogers.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #231 — by **Claremont, Silvestri,** and **Green.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #208 — by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
THE MUPPET BABIES #21 — by **Hitchcock** and **Severin.**
VISIONARIES #5 — by **Conway, Bagley,** and **Tanghal.**
BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY #5 — by **Manak, Colon,** and **Roettcher.**
G.I. JOE #73 — by **Hama, Wagner,** and **Emberlin.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #316 — by **Englehart, Pollard,** and **Sinnott.**

IRON MAN #232 — by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
THE 'NAM #20 — by **Murray, Vansant,** and **Isherwood.**
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #140 — by **Conway** and **S. Buscema.**
THE STAR BRAND #14 — by **Byrne** and **Palmer.**
THOR #393 — by **DeFalco** and **Frenz.**
X-FACTOR #30 — by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
CARE BEARS #17 — by **Poltor, Post,** and **Edelman.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #23 — by **Claremont, Byrne, Austin,** and **Bolton.**
MUPPET BABIES #20 — by **Hitchcock** and **Severin.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #42 — by **Budiansky, Delbo,** and **Hunt.**
THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE #10
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE Trade Paperback #10
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #7 — compiled by **Olshevsky.**
CONAN SAGA #14 — by **Thomas** and **S. Buscema.**
WILLOW Graphic Novel

Puck has a dragon-sized problem in ALPHA FLIGHT.

NEWSWATCH

ITEM: X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, and EXCALIBUR writer **Chris Claremont** has entered the science-fiction world with his debut novel, FIRSTFLIGHT. It's the gripping saga of a young woman's initial adventure as a pilot aboard a star-cruiser and of the incident that thrusts the future of mankind onto her shoulders; for she makes first contact with an alien race! It's brought to you by the friendly folks over at Berkeley Books, and is on sale at a bookstore near you!

ITEM: The cost of so many things seem to keep going up and up, and unfortunately comics are one of those many things. But instead of raising the price of each and every title, we're holding the line with a price increase on only nine titles. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, X-MEN, X-FACTOR, NEW MUTANTS, THE AVENGERS, THE PUNISHER and SILVER SURFER will now cost $1. We know it's a big hike, but this way we can keep all our other Marvel comics at 75¢.

There are some new changes in the New Universe as well which will now be available only in the direct sales market. PSI FORCE, JUSTICE,.THE STAR BRAND and D.P. 7 will also be printed offset on Mandotone paper, as are Epic's ALIEN LEGION and VIDEO JACK, and will cost $1.25.

Big changes are also in store for THE 'NAM which will now come out in two editions. The full-color comic edition will be a direct sales only comic and printed offset on Mandotone paper and cost $1.25. The newsstand edition of THE 'NAM will be a black-and-white magazine, like CONAN SAGA and SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, and will debut in April as 'NAM MAGAZINE and will cost $1.95.

ITEM: Remember the original OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE? Remember how the covers all fit together to form one tremendous mural? Well, now you can unstaple all those comic books from your wall because we'll be releasing the twelve covers in one giant 50" × 50" OFFICIAL POSTER TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. It's penciled by **Ed Hannigan** and inked by **Joe Rubinstein** and features hundreds of heroes seen on the original covers, *plus* revisions and additions! It's $14.95 and is sure to be the most colorful wallpaper you'll find anywhere!

ITEM: Pedagogal **Bob Budiansky** is once again teaching "Comic Book Illustration" at New York City's Parsons School of Design. Classes start in January, 1988 and are a great way to learn the basics of what it takes to be a comic book artist. For more information call Parsons at (212) 741-7576 or write:

PARSONS SCHOOL OF DESIGN
Midtown Campus
560 Seventh Ave.
New York, NY 10018

ITEM: Never let it be said that the wacky Bullpen was ever organized!

What we're shame-facedly trying to say is that we almost forgot to tell you not to miss our adaptation of Filmation Studio's stunning animated movie, PINOCCHIO AND THE EMPEROR OF THE NIGHT. It's a forty-one page fairy tale that picks up where the original classic adventure left off. **Sid Jacobson** scripted it, **Ben Brown** penciled it, **Jacqueline Roettcher** wrote it and at $1.25, you're sure to enjoy it!

ITEM: Say goodbye to Submissions Editor **Adam Blaustein** and hello to our new Manufacturing Coordinator, Adam Blaustein! Adam's in charge of talking to the separaters and engravers of our Marvel and Star comics. And what *that* means is that if the color doesn't come out right on our comics, we now know who to yell at! Congratulations, Adam!

ITEM: Say hello to our new Submissions Editor, **David Wohl**! In case his name sounds more than a little familiar, David's been Executive Editor **Mark Gruenwald's** right hand man as editorial designer on the THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE series! Now David will be working with up and coming writers and artists, letters and colorists who could be the next Claremont, **McFarlane**, **Novak** or **Scotese**. Good luck, David!

THE TOP TEN

Ha! Gotcha! Checking out our Top Ten before you caught up on what's happening in "Newswatch!" We'll forgive you this time — but only because we've been known to sneak a peek over here first, ourselves. Anyway, this issue's list of Marvel's top ten best-selling titles in the Direct Sales market is for the month of **September**. It's compiled by our Vice President/Direct Sales **Carol Kalish**. And now . . . the Top Ten:

1 — **X-MEN** #225
2 — **X-FACTOR** #24
3 — **THE PUNISHER** #5
4 — **THE NEW MUTANTS** #59
5 — **SILVER SURFER** #7
6 — **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #296
7 — **THE 'NAM** #14
8 — **CLASSIC X-MEN** #17
9 — **SOLO AVENGERS** #2
10 — **G.I. JOE** #67

FOR ALL FANS OF THE SERIES. . .

Doctor Who MAGAZINE

Travel through time and space with the Doctor. . .
Meet the stars and men behind the scenes in our interviews, learn how the series is put together in our **features**, read our series **reviews** and **previews** and all the **news of the series** as it enters its **25th Anniversary year!**
See our store of black and white and colour **photos** and enjoy the **comic strip adventures.**
All in the **Doctor Who Magazine**™ – US$45.00 for 12 issues. Send to **Subscriptions Department, Doctor Who Magazine, Marvel Comics Ltd., 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA, England,** allowing 28 days for commencement of subscription.

DOCTOR WHO © 1987 B.B.C.

X-IRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-IRA

VOLUME 3 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 2

Welcome to Professor Raspler's school for people looking for mutant gifts. Hurry up and grab a seat, class is about to begin.

"Good morning, class. Today we're going to find out about all the Mutant Graphic Novels Marvel has published. No, that doesn't mean all the $6.00, square-bound, 64-page comic books with the power to teleport . . . today we're going to learn all about the NEW MUTANTS Graphic Novel, The DAZZLER Graphic Novel, the X-MEN Graphic Novel, the EXCALIBUR prestige format debut, and MARVEL MASTERWORKS: X-MEN Volume III.

"The NEW MUTANTS Graphic Novel ($4.95) by Chris Claremont and Bob McLeod is the actual debut of our favorite team of novice super heroes. It takes place in continuity immediately before issue #1 of the New Mutants' own series, and

gives us a solid insight into the motivations and origins of Danni, Sam, Bobby, Rahne, and Xian (although Xian did not debut in this book as the others did). In this graphic novel, they are all a little younger, cleaner, and more innocent than they are now, and the tone of the book on the whole is lighter than the series is today. This graphic novel also answers the question: Whatever happened to Donald Pierce of the Hellfire Club?

"The DAZZLER: THE MOVIE Graphic Novel presents the story that set off the wave of recent anti-mutant hysteria in the Marvel Universe. It's the story of Alison Blaire, budding starlet, getting caught up in the twisted world of Hollywood Babylon: high fashion, drinking, smoking, and the omni-present casting couch. Alison never appears in costume, and there ain't no super-villain, but Jim Shooter, Frank Springer, and Vinnie Colletta offer us subtle characterization and realistic relationships in this romanticized story of: 'How to Become a Famous Film Star in Five Easy Steps, Provided You Can Shoot Lasers Out of Your Eyes.' It's light, silly, and a lot of fun. A definite must for all Dazzler fans. For $6.95, you can't go wrong.

"The X-MEN GRAPHIC NOVEL GOD LOVES MAN KILLS ($5.95). In my humble opinion, this is a state of the art Graphic Novel. It is a powerful, dark story by Chris Claremont (what a surprise), and Brent "Strikeforce Morituri" Anderson. We don't want to give away plot points, so I'll just say this: it involves a T.V. evangelist who reinterprets the Gospel to suit his own twisted visions. (And people say comics are flights of fancy!) According to Chris Claremont, this is the best portrayal of the X-Men he has done to date. 'It has everything you need to know about the X-Men both structurally and thematically,' quoth Chris. In my opinion, if you buy *one* graphic novel this month (and I know they ain't cheap!), buy the X-MEN GRAPHIC NOVEL.

"Now, I haven't seen the EXCALIBUR prestige format debut myself, so all I can do is give you the specs and rumors that I've heard from the Marvel grapevine. If you want more details, check out MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #60. Briefly, then, EXCALIBUR will first appear on the stands as a $3.25 squarebound 48-page prestige format work of art. Written by Chris Claremont, pencilled by Alan Davis, and painted by Glynis Oliver . . . you *know* you can't go wrong. It's going to be the leadoff book for an ongoing series of regular 75¢ newsprint books, so don't worry about having to shell out $3.25 every month. EXCALIBUR takes place in England and includes three former X-Men (Ex-X-Men?) as main characters, and also Captain Britain and his girlfriend, Meggan. And for all you Captain Britain fans, this book will take place right after his own book left off, so there should be no messy continuity snags. Word has it that EXCALIBUR is supposed to be a "cosmic comedy" . . . but knowing Chris, Alan, and Glynis, we should be in for some serious entertainment.

"Finally, of course, we have the book that we've all been waiting for. MARVEL MASTERWORKS has literally been decades in the making, and features the work of the masters themselves, none other than ol' Stan 'the Man' Lee and Jack 'King' Kirby. You've heard of Classic X-Men? Well, here are the *real* classics: we're reprinting the first ten issues of THE UNCANNY X-MEN, binding them together in a sophisticated hardcover edition, and releasing the whole package the third week in November. Yep, just in time for the holiday season . . . honestly, can you think of a nicer stocking stuffer? This volume of MARVEL MASTERWORKS is colored by Christie Scheele and Evelyn Stein, and will sell for $29.95. How does that old saying go? It costs a bit more . . . but it's worth it.

"So that's what's around, as far as our Mutant Graphic Novels go. We've got stuff for everyone, so we expect you guys to run out and buy at least one of these. Unlike regular comics, graphic novels look terrific on bookshelves, coffee tables, or Doctor's offices, and the MARVEL MASTERWORKS would look good at Buckingham Palace or the Taj Mahal. So look into it. You won't be disappointed.

"Class dismissed."

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

Fantastic Four
I--I CAN'T TURN INVISIBLE FAST ENOUGH!! HOW CAN WE STOP THIS CREATURE TOUCH?
JUST WAIT AND SEE, SISTER! THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE ONLY [redacted] TO FIGHT!
FEATURING: "THE THING!" "MR. FANTASTIC!" "HUMAN TORCH!" "INVISIBLE GIRL!" TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ONE MIGHTY MAGAZINE!
THE THREE OF YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE! IT'S TIME FOR THE THING TO TAKE A HAND!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN BOSSES TO KEEP MISTER FANTASTIC OUT OF ACTION

"Are you sure this is, absolutely necessary?" I asked, trying to keep from trembling with fear as I began my third, and apparently most dangerous, assignment for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. Strapping myself into the seat of the customized DeLorean, I prepared for the ride of my life.

"There's no other way!" **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**, Managing Editor for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE "assured" me as he busied himself making the final preparations for what looked like a one way trip back to the future. Looking more like **Christopher Lloyd** than I remember, he frantically went over my instructions once again as he leaned over me and made the proper adjustments to the chrono-odometer on the dashboard. It was only when I saw the date "June 1962" that I realized he was planning to send me twenty-five years into the past!

"Er, look Dwight . . ." I began.

"Doctor Dwight to you!" he shrieked.

"Er, look Doctor Dwight . . ."

"Lord Dwight, Emperor of Time!" he corrected me once again. And to think I knew him when he was Assistant Editor Dwight.

"Look," I finally managed, "I'm as eager to get the full story behind the Marvel Masterworks series as the next guy, but I get the feeling there has to be an easier way."

"You . . . freelancer! Your kind has never understood the concept behind deadlines!" He began to pace maniacally back and forth, his footsteps echoing off the walls of the great subterranean parking garage deep beneath 387 Park Avenue South. "The article detailing the new Marvel Masterworks series of hardcover books is due on Monday! Because the people working on the repackaging and reproduction of the first ten issues of three of Marvel's top titles are putting so much time and care into their work, you won't be able to report on the contents of these early legendary stories of THE FANTASTIC FOUR, SPIDER-MAN, and THE X-MEN unless—"

"Unless I travel back in time and study the original works as they were being created," I interrupted. Of course he was right, but that didn't mean I had to look forward to being the test subject of this experimental blast into the past. At the same time, I was eager to meet the talented trinity that created some of the most popular characters of modern-day mythology. To think I'd be able to shake hands with **Stan "The Man" Lee**, **Jack "King" Kirby**, and **Sturdy Steve Ditko**. Slipping on my racing goggles, I gave my thumbs up. Lord Dwight started the countdown.

"Ten, nine, eight . . ." he began. Beads of sweat started to flow down my brow.

"Seven, six, five . . ." I wondered if I'd ever see my beloved **Isabelle** again.

or

How I Got Back To The Future Without Even Trying

THE STRANGEST SUPER-HEROES OF ALL!
1 SEPT
the X-MEN
MARVEL
IN THE SPECTACULAR FANTASTIC FOUR STYLE!
DON'T MISS THIS FABULOUS FIRST ISSUE!
X-MEN VERSUS MAGNETO EARTH'S MOST POWERFUL SUPER VILLAIN!

"Four, three, two . . ." My hands clenched the steering wheel.

"Wait! Stop! Hold it!" came a cry from the distance! Into the huge cavernous parking garage rushed the unmistakable form of Special Projects Editor **Bob Budiansky**! In his hand were clenched three hardcover books. I was saved.

"There's no need to travel back in time," he said, reaffirming what I had believed all along. *"Look!"*

He handed me the first three books in the Marvel Masterworks Series. They were awesome to behold.

The 256-page FANTASTIC FOUR volume contains the first appearances of **Dr. Doom**, **the Sub-Mariner**, **Alicia**, **the Mole Man**, and a veritable Who's Who (ooops) of characters that have long since become the mainstays at Marvel. Detailing FF #1 through #10, comicdom's first family finally gets the treatment they deserve.

The collected works of SPIDER-MAN begins before the old web-slinger's first issue as we're treated to his original appearance in AMAZING FANTASY #15. Thrill to the arrival of **the Sandman**, **Dr. Octopus**, **Electro**, **the Vulture**, and none other than **J. Jonah Jameson** as they enter the life of young **Peter Parker** transformed overnight from shy bookworm to comic's first and longest-lasting anti-hero. Also at 256-pages, this includes all of his adventures up until issue #10.

THE UNCANNY X-MEN also get star treatment as the first ten adventures of Marvel's misunderstood mutants are represented in this new format. With 246 pages of **Professor X**, **Marvel Girl**, **Cyclops**, **the Beast**, **Iceman**, and **the Avenging Angel** squaring off against such foes as their then-enemy **Magneto** for the first time, who even has to mention the first battle with **the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants** *and* the introduction of **Ka-Zar**?

Each MARVEL MASTERWORKS contains a dust cover framed with new artwork rendered by **Sandy Plunkett** and **Tom Palmer** and a new introduction written by Stan Lee.

For those of you who missed these classics the first time around, and can't wait to see the fabled FANTASTIC FOUR, and the exciting X-MEN in their original incarnations by Jack Kirby and the sensational SPIDER-MAN rendered by Steve Ditko (all re-colored and reseparated on high-gloss paper), pick up the first three installments of the MARVEL MASTERWORKS series available soon only at a comic specialty shop near you.

I'll join you as soon as I can figure out how to pry myself out of this high-tech seatbelt. Dwight? Oh, Dwight?!?

—Scott Lobdell

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, culture lovers!

Are you ready once again for another heavy dose of erudition and enlightenment? Are you as desperate as ever to feed your hunger for literature, to quench your thirst for knowledge? If so, I've news for you — boy, are you in the wrong place!

But, if you've got some time to kill and don't mind wasting it on a bit of mindless though mirthful minutiae, stick around, you're my kinda hero!

First off, it's time we settled one of the burning issues of the decade! Yep, time for me to summon my dauntless courage (as opposed to courage *with* daunt, of course) and forthrightly reply to the countless letters and phone calls you have inundated me with ever since that fateful day when MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE so callously unleashed the strange and savage saga of **Willie Lumpkin** upon a dazed, defenseless world!

It all started when our sagacious though sinister editor, **Slim Jim Salicrup**, accidentally stumbled onto a pile of ancient newspaper strips which I had written in partnership with my old buddy, Dashing **Dan DeCarlo**, one of the best cartoonists to ever pamper a pencil.

From here on, the story tumbles steadily downhill, getting ever more tragic as it goes. In fact, to quote from the immortal bard, in the woebegone words of **Mark Antony** as he addressed the Roman populace while standing over the bloodied, dagger-stabbed body of **Julius Caesar**, "If you have tears to shed, prepare to shed them now." I mean, when we get heavy, we don't kid around!

Anyway, sinister Salicrup (may his name be henceforth stricken from the legendary **Stan Lee** list of Those Who Be Devoted and Dutiful and thus Deserveth Much) chortling deviously in the best super-villain tradition, picked up the phone and called my own unsuspecting self without further ado. (I might not have minded if he'd used a little ado, but that's another story.)

"Stan," he said. "I wanna ask you something."

See what I mean? The man's audacity is indescribable.

Being the trusting soul I am, pure of heart and unsullied of spirit, I responded in my usual witty and guileless manner.

"Hey, like what, huh?"

Not even that overpowering display of charm and articulation could swerve him from his diabolical purpose.

"How about letting us include one installment of Willie Lumpkin with each of your articles?" asketh he.

Touched by his interest, overwhelmed by his caring, my judgment clouded by the sparkle of his smile and the twinkle in his eye, I committed the unpardonable blunder of replying, "Sure, why not?"

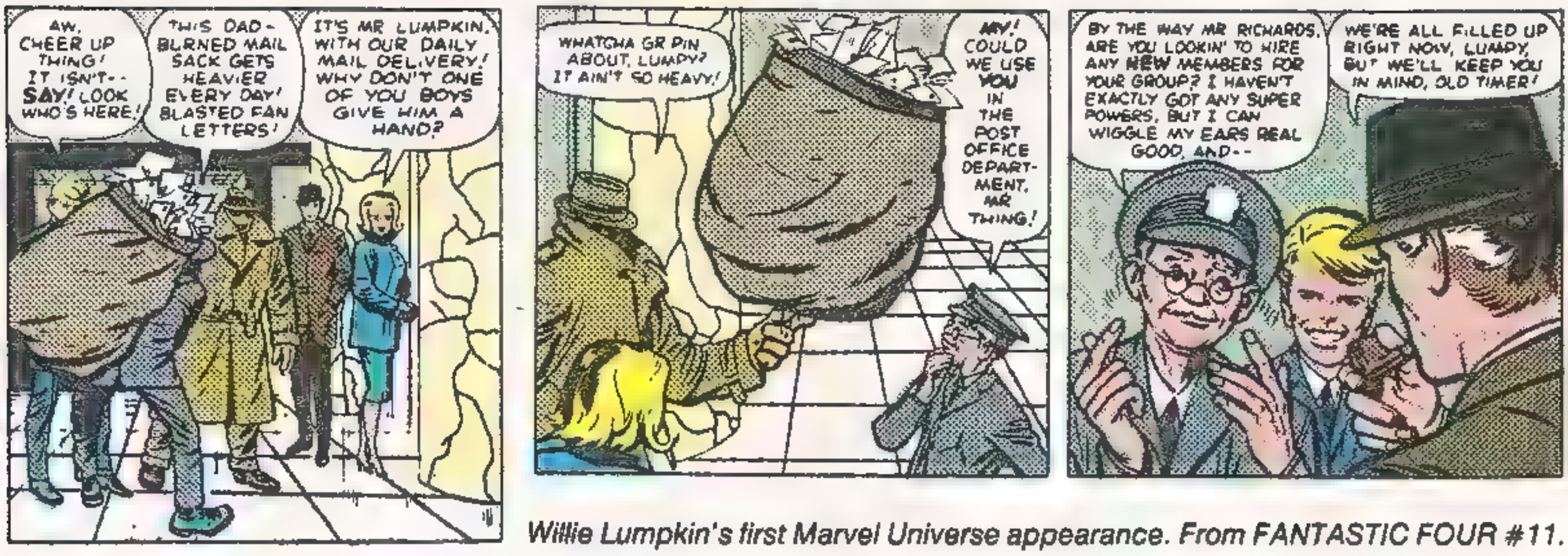
Oh, how I have lived to rue that day! How oft I have wished for the power to undo that dread decision, to unspeak those fateful words. But alas, what's done is done. Not even I can alter fate! And so the die was cast. The curtain raised. Now let the awesome drama begin.

And begin it did! First the letters, then the phone calls, the telegrams, the notes slipped under the door! All with the same plaintive message, the same urgent query — why? WHY? *WHY?!!*

Why, asked Marveldom Assembled, why in a Soapbox devoted to insightful musings about art, music, literature, philoeophy, yea the very meaning of life; why do we have a simplistic little cartoon to contend with, a nonsensical trifle about a plodding, pixilated postman? Why, when all of comicdom is eager for Stan's every utterance, analyzing his every syllable, treasuring his every phrase, why do we callously devote a portion of the page to a character who wasn't even hip when a penny postcard only cost a penny?!!

As for me, I added my own tremulous though resonant voice to the chorus of righteous rage and wrathful recrimination. Why, sayeth I, does Jaunty Jim inevitably select the *unfunniest* of the thousands of Lumpkin gags available to him?

But I feel the time is come to end this delicate little diatribe, for a terrifying thought just struck me. What if Slim-Jim deviates from his time-honored practice and actually *reads* this meandering monograph? What if, as he meticulously moves his lips, trying not to stumble over the two-syllable words, what if, in some unexpected way, he actually manages to comprehend what we've been saying? There is no limit to the vengeance this man is capable of extracting! Next issue, for all we know, we'll find an entire page devoted to — oh no, I can hardly get the words out — devoted to


AW, CHEER UP THING! IT ISN'T-- SAY! LOOK WHO'S HERE!
THIS DAD-BURNED MAIL SACK GETS HEAVIER EVERY DAY! BLASTED FAN LETTERS!
IT'S MR LUMPKIN, WITH OUR DAILY MAIL DELIVERY! WHY DON'T ONE OF YOU BOYS GIVE HIM A HAND?
WHATCHA GR PIN ABOUT, LUMPY? IT AIN'T SO HEAVY!
MY! COULD WE USE YOU IN THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, MR THING!
BY THE WAY MR RICHARDS, ARE YOU LOOKIN' TO HIRE ANY NEW MEMBERS FOR YOUR GROUP? I HAVEN'T EXACTLY GOT ANY SUPER POWERS, BUT I CAN WIGGLE MY EARS REAL GOOD, AND--
WE'RE ALL FILLED UP RIGHT NOW, LUMPY, BUT WE'LL KEEP YOU IN MIND, OLD TIMER!

Willie Lumpkin's first Marvel Universe appearance. From FANTASTIC FOUR #11.

--UNNATURAL, REED RICHARDS?
WILLIE LUMPKIN?! THEN YOU... YOU'RE REALLY--
YES, REED RICHARDS...
...I AM ACTUALLY A MEMBER OF THE SHAPE-CHANGING RACE KNOWN AS...
...THE SKRULLS!

A Skrull disguises himself as Willie Lumpkin in FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #15.

the further adventures of Willie Lumpkin!

Okay, now that I got that out of my system, it's time for a brief confessional. Actually, as you've probably guessed, I really love Willie Lumpkin. I even feel a certain, albeit unwarranted, affection for Jim Sali --- whatever his name is! And I can almost see the burning question forming on your quivering lips — "So why did you write that whole preceding mishmash?". Well, never shall I countenance a merry Marvelite to wallow in a sea of uncertainty or doubt. Here then, the answer true:

These very words, so certain to be recorded for posterity, are being written in October, at home in Los Angeles, just a few days after the biggest earthquake we've had in years, even as the scientists tell us to expect an even bigger quake anytime in the near future! Just hours ago, we've also had one of the biggest rainfalls this city has experienced, wreaking havoc with our roads and freeways. On top of that, the stock market has just been rocked by the biggest nose-dive since the crash of '29! And, this very week the Senate rejected the first Supreme Court nominee since I can't remember when!

Okay. With that behind me, I sat down to write this month's Soapbox. But honestly gang, I just couldn't get serious. I started laughing to myself. I thought, hey, the way things have been going, the only thing left to happen will be the voice of **Chicken Little** crying, "Time's up,, everyone! The sky's falling!" And y'know something? I'll probably believe it!

Anyway, I suspect that writing this stream-of-consciousness nonsense has been good therapy for me, even if it hasn't done a thing for you! In fact, I'm about ready to look the world in the eye again and face whatever new surprises lie in store for us. After all, I've got the Hallowed Hordes of Marveldom right behind me — although I do sometimes wish you'd all catch up a bit!

Well, that's it for now. If I've confused or confounded you, look at the bright side. I won't be back till next ish!

But wait! Sheesh, I almost forgot! It's time for our annual Christmas poem! Gather 'round the tree, kiddies, 'cause here we go . . . (To the tune of "Yankee Doodle")

Santa Claus is on his way,
With his bag of presents.
He's got a gift for everyone,
Be they mutants, kings or peasants!
(chorus)
Santa, Santa, we love you,
here's a thought that's dandy:
Bring DC some Marvel mags
Or anything that's handy!

Well, waddaya expect after an earthquake?

Here's wishing you the best of everything — 'cause you're the best!

Excelsior!

Stan

WILLIE LUMPKIN

© 1987 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo

THIS IS CHARLIE BOOMER'S CORNER! I'LL HAVE SOME FUN WITH HIM!
DING! DING!
GIVE
LEE and DeCARLO
HEWWO, SANTA! I HOPE 'OO WILL BWING ME A TOO-TOO TWAIN!
MAIL
GIVE
IF I DON'T GET IT, SANTA, I'LL CWY!
DING! DING!
GIVE
THANKS FOR RELIEVING ME, PETE!
BOY! I GUESS IT TAKES ALL KINDS, BOOMER!
GIVE

ONE DAY, IN MISS FEENY'S 7th GRADE ENGLISH CLASS...
ALL RIGHT, CLASS, WE'RE FINISHED WITH TODAY'S LESSON. YOU MAY SPEND THE REMAINDER OF THE PERIOD READING THE MATERIAL OF YOUR CHOICE.
YES, MISS FEENY!
A MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL? WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S THE FINEST IN ILLUSTRATED ENTERTAINMENT. FEATURING STORIES SO EXCITING AND SO SPECIAL THEY DEMAND THE SUPERIOR FORMAT UTILIZED BY THE ENTIRE LINE OF MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS, THEY'RE A VISUAL TREAT FOR DISCRIMINATING READERS!
I--I HAD NO IDEA...
THE GREATEST TALENTS IN THE OF PICTORIAL LITERATURE MAK THE IMPRESSIVE ROSTER OF CO UTORS TO MARVEL'S GRAPHIC N FRANK MILLER, BILL SIENKIEW BERNI WRIGHTSON, JIM STARLI BYRNE, WALT SIMONSON, CHRIS MONT, P. CRAIG RUSSELL, MOEB MANY, MANY OT
AND OF ALL--TH RUN OF 30-ODD IS BEING KEPT A TREME BENE ANY COME THE
NOW, RUN ALONG AND JOIN YOUR CLASSMATES GETTING ON THE BUS... I'LL BE WITH YOU MOMENTARILY...
OK.
I GOT A DAZZLER GRAPHIC NOVEL!
I GOT A Tales of Asgard AND A STAR SLAMMERS!
I GOT 2 MOBIUSES-- OR DOES 2 MOBIUSES EQUAL 1 MOBII?..
AT LAST!
MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS
OH.. MY!
OH MY OH MY OH MY!!...
MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS

MR. JOHNSON! YOU KNOW THAT READING COMIC BOOKS IN CLASS IS AGAINST THE RULES!!
BUT, MISS FEENY, I WASN'T READING A COMIC BOOK--
--I WAS READING A MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL!
oooo!
ah!
E FIELD
E UP
ONTRIB-
NOVELS:
NICZ,
N, JOHN
S CLARE-
SIUS, AND
THERS.
BEST
E ENTIRE
TITLES
IN PRINT,
ENDOUS
FIT FOR
LATE-
RS TO
FIELD.
CHARLES, I'M SURE WE'D ALL LOVE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS, BUT OUR TIME HAS ALMOST RUN OUT FOR TODAY.
HOWEVER, I DO HAVE AN IDEA...
A FEW DAYS LATER...
GOSH, MISS FEENY, THANKS FOR BRINGING THE CLASS DOWN TO THE LOCAL COMICS SHOP ON A FIELD TRIP!
HULK
CAPTAIN AMERICA
X-MEN
NEW MUTANTS
NOT AT ALL, CHARLES. I FEEL IT IS MY DUTY TO SHARE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN LITERATURE WITH MY CLASSES, CHARLES, EVEN IF, AS IN THIS INSTANCE, I RIGHT ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE CHILDREN, HAD TO LEARN ABOUT MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS FROM YOU. GOOD WORK, CHARLES.
AW...
HERE'S YOUR CHANGE AND YOUR BOOK, MA'AM. HOPE YOU ENJOY IT AND COME SEE US AGAIN.
THANK YOU.
Y'KNOW, I JUST KNEW SHE WAS GONNA BUY SOMETHIN'!...
...BUT I JUST NEVER FIGURED HER AS THE KINDA WOMAN WHO'D READ "SUPERBOXERS"?!...
AND JUST WHY NOT? AFTER ALL, MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS ARE FUN FOR EVERYONE -- AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

While researching Marvel Graphic Novels for this quiz, I discovered a surprising fact that I was tempted to use as a question. Who would you think has made the most appearances in Marvel Graphic Novels? (I'm talking characters here, not writers or artists.) The first answers to spring to mind might be **Captain America**, **Spider-Man** or the **Thing**, right? Would you believe — **Storm**? With split-second cameo appearances in THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL and EMPEROR DOOM, as well as a guest appearance in DAZZLER: THE MOVIE and starring roles in X-MEN: GOD LOVES, MAN KILLS and THE ALADDIN EFFECT, the leader of the **X-Men** edges out all other comers for frequency of appearance! (Of course, by the time this is printed, the tally may have to be done all over again, but for now, Storm's the champ!)

Yet another new format this month, and here's why. First of all, trivia regarding Marvel Graphic Novels doesn't go all that far back — since the first one debuted a scant six years ago! (That may not seem all that long ago to many of you, but to us old-timers it seems distressingly current!) Secondly, I've always associated Marvel Graphic Novels with beginnings and endings. Some of the most memorable and exciting series to be published — by Marvel, or in some cases, by other companies — were launched in Marvel Graphic Novels: STARSTRUCK, SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS, DREADSTAR, VOID INDIGO, THE NEW MUTANTS, THE FUTURIANS. In other cases, sagas have reached their ultimate climaxes in Marvel Graphic Novels: KILLRAVEN, THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL, and the **Kingpin's** struggle to revive his wife in DAREDEVIL in LOVE AND WAR.

This being the case, we won't ask questions this month in any chronological order — and in fact, we won't ask questions at all! Instead, we're going to provide you with a line of *dialogue* from one of the Marvel Graphic Novels — either the first line or the last line — and ask you to name the Novel! And if you're extra ambitious, you can specify whether the quoted line came from the start or the finish of the book in question! As always, answers are listed in our ever-present letters column. Good luck!

1. "Don't you ever get enough, M'Shulla?"

2. "But you will always remember."
"At least, I'll try to."

3. "Far have we come, farther still we must go. After that, **Ashake**, who can say? The she-wolf and the lioness may yet meet again."

4. "Most, I remember the bugs. They were always bad around the citadel, but sprayin' kept 'em down. 'Course, when you're surrounded, the flitters just keep breedin' in the swamps and the corpses and there's nothin' you can do."

5. "When you are ready, and if you choose, come to this address. The people there helped me learn the vistas of my own abilities. They may be able to help you as well."

6. "C'mon, **Cap'n Kidd**! Let's see what the storm's washed up on the beach!"

7. "Another day, another bag of garbage. Milk cartons . . . steak bones . . . snotty tissues . . . doody diapers — life's just one long parade of crap!"

8. "Fly **Thunderhoof**! Thy mistress **Sygnet** bids thee hie aloft Asgard's noblest burden . . . whose love wore not the pale, weary rags of time, but the golden raiment of eternity."

9. "That's what it's all about, really. Needing and helping. Caring for one another. And from that caring comes love."
"Which makes the world go round. If only that were so."

10. "I don't care what ya say! This whole deal stinks!"

11. "I think it was then I realized I had a destiny to fulfill, not a fate to suffer . . . "

12. "He's gone . . . "

13. "I have built an empire on human sin."

14. "What the — Blazes!?! A wolf?!? But they've been extinct in these parts for generations."

15. "I guess we've all been through a lot today. But not as much as the people of this city — people we've sworn to protect, people who need our help. So let's give that help, focus our energies there, and worry about solving our own problems when we can. When . . . and if."

16. "Now I know where this tunnel leads — into the Maze, the thieves' quarter. As the King's bodyguards, we won't be welcome."

17. "Point those toes! One-and-two-and-one-and-two—"

18. "I can't tell whether you look more like a warrior or a flashdancer. But I like it."
"*They* will know. *That* is what matters."

19. "We've done humankind the greatest favor in history — or we've done it the greatest damage. And either way, that's something we're going to have to live with, for the rest of our lives . . . "

20. "Let us give this age *cause* to hate us!"

THE MARVEL® GRAPHIC NOVEL COLLECTION

Years ago, it was only a dream: comics stories available in high-quality format, on paper that was sleek and slick and beautiful, with colors as vibrant as magazine photography, in bindings that were made to last. A few years later, the dream became a rumor — albums filled with comics were said to be popular in the European market, clearly demonstrating the respect for the art form overseas — but such albums were rarely seen over here, almost mythical. Throughout the seventies, comics publishers slowly groped toward new concepts, new methods of packaging the high-quality stories and art of which the field is capable. After many false starts and detours, however, the dream has arrived! And at Marvel, it's here in our proud line of Graphic Novels!

And so it is with understandable pride that we call your attention to the following Graphic Novels. Remember, too, that another great thing about Marvel Graphic Novels is that they're still in print, and available at their original prices! Try buying a Jim Starlin comic from 5 or 6 years ago — it may well be 5 or 6 times the price! But bookstores and comics specialty stores carry the Graphic Novels at their original price — wotta deal! So without further ado, let's see what's on the Event Horizon!

—Brian Nelson

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL

by Jim Starlin $5.95

From the writer/artist who practically invented the concept of "cosmic adventure," the ultimate confrontation for a super hero. Here Jim Starlin takes Mar-Vell into combat against the inescapable foe that waits for us all: Death Herself. As cancer envelops the proud warrior, his friends and even his enemies come to attend the moment, to hope, to pray, to help however they can. But as inevitable and inescapable as death may be, when it does come, it's also unexpected! The last adventure of the cosmic hero, in the first Marvel Graphic Novel ever — it's a must.

ELRIC: THE DREAMING CITY

by Roy Thomas and P. Craig Russell. $5.95

"A tale of Elric of Melnibone, and of his enchanted runesword Stormbringer, also called Stealer of Souls." So begins this beautiful adaptation of the Michael Moorcock tale, "The Dreaming City," starring his incomparable creation, Elric. If you've never met this amazing character, the outcast albino who uses sorcery and his soul-drinking sword to survive in a barbaric world, then here is your big chance — and if you have met him, you'll be doubly sure not to miss this adventure! As adapted by scripter Roy Thomas, recognized master of comics sword-and-sorcery, and the enchanted illustrative technique of P. Craig Russell, ELRIC: THE DREAMING CITY is fine and unforgettable fantasy. As Elric raids the city-state that holds both his dearest love and his deadliest enemy, he must overcome not only the forces of his opponents, but the mistrust of his allies — and perhaps the direst threat comes from himself, from his bargain for power and magic with the forces of Hell itself!

DREADSTAR

by Jim Starlin. $4.95

Like Elric, another man with a sword — but Vanth Dreadstar was a man who has seen too much of war, and who had escaped it to find peace. All was serene . . . until the universe came knocking on his door, and transformed him into the leading player in a conflict that spanned the solar systems! More than "a new adventure in the Metamorphosis Odyssey series," DREADSTAR is the starting point for the acclaimed science fantasy series that has been a hit ever since — and even more, DREADSTAR launched Epic Comics, the bold line of creator-owned series that continues to thrive to this day! Here in the first adventure are Vanth himself, the grey man who holds a power that had helped to destroy the Milky Way — Oedi, the Cat-man who survives the destruction of his planet to become Vanth's strong right hand (as well as one of comics' most popular supporting characters) — and Syzygy Darklock, the sorcerer who trains Dreadstar for his fate, all the while holding his own fearsome secrets! A thrill-a-minute cast of characters you'll never forget!

STAR SLAMMERS

by Walter Simonson. $5.95

Before his now-legendary work on THOR, Walt Simonson made his biggest mark at Marvel with this space fantasy developed from some of his earliest character creations. Imagine a **Kurosawa** samurai flick, but set amidst the galaxies of tomorrow, and you'll have a rough idea of the power and the action in this inimitable Simonson spectacle. When only three warriors are sent to bring peace to a world, you know they'd better be good — the best! The back cover copy sums it up: "Once upon a time, there was a race of men who could out-shoot, out-fight, and out-kill anybody. They were paid fabulous sums to act as mercenaries. The practice became so lucrative, they decided to go into business. They became the most successful businessmen in history, and they called themselves . . . THE STAR SLAMMERS!"

KILLRAVEN: WARRIOR OF THE WORLDS

by Don McGregor and P. Craig Russell. $5.95

In H.G. Wells' classic novel, THE WAR OF THE WORLDS, the Martians come to invade Earth. They look unstoppable, but they're finally driven away by the dangers of bacteria. In Marvel's stunning sequel, in 2001, the Martians come back — inoculated against germs — and this time, they win! Nineteen years later, the Earth is theirs, and only a ragtag band of freedom fighters dares stand against them! Led by a youth who lost his parents to the Martians, whose own brother is being trained as their secret weapon, the wanderers look to **Killraven** for mission, for purpose, and just possibly for salvation! This Graphic Novel reunites the team of Don McGregor and P. Craig Russell, who made the WAR OF THE WORLDS series one of Marvel's cult hits of the 70s. Here, for those who remember the series, the saga ends in a wondrously imaginative climax, as Killraven's latent powers flourish with a strength that only the Graphic Novel format could fully dramatize! And for those new to the characters, a new world dawns in these pages, a world filled with great beauty and great danger, as the survivors of a shattered America strive to put it all back together!

VOID INDIGO

by Steve Gerber and Val Mayerik. $4.95

"In a savage era before the dawn of history, four sorcerers committed a heinous crime of torture and murder — and thought they got away with it. They're about to find out they were wrong." These words introduce VOID INDIGO, a spellbinding work from the men who originated **Howard the Duck**, Steve Gerber and Val Mayerik. But this is a far cry from the fine-feathered humor of Howard — this is the tale of **Jaagur**, a man from a barbaric era of prehistory who was sacrificed along with his mate by a group of sorcerers. Now it's the 1980s, and Jaagur has been reincarnated as an alien — but with his sense of revenge intact. Somewhere in this universe, his four mortal enemies and his mate have been reincarnated; can he find them before they find him?

THE FUTURIANS

by Dave Cockrum. $6.95

He breathed new life into the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES. He co-created the new X-MEN. And here, writer/artist **Dave Cockrum** unveils his newest, most unusual team of super beings . . . the **Futurians**! Meet **Avatar**, brilliant strategist and tactician who has lived more than one life; **Silkie**, the amphibious shapechanger; **Terrayne**, the Earthmover; **Blackmane**, bestial warrior; **Werehawk**, part human and part terrifying bird-thing; **Mosquito**, lovely mistress of ultrasonics; **Silver Shadow**, who twists between the very dimensions; and **Sunswift**, alien woman whose power derives from the sun itself! Against their will, these eight have been given powers and asked to save the world. But can they accept their transformations? Can they become a team in time to resist the otherworldly danger of **the Inheritors**? Can they resist the ruthless manipulations of Future Dynamics, the company that engineered their super powers? THE FUTURIANS stands as one of Dave Cockrum's strongest achievements.

HEARTBURST

by Rick Veitch. $4.95

An odyssey between worlds . . . a journey to awakening . . . an exploration of love, lust, and most of all, advertising.

HEARTBURST is the story of Sunoco Firestone, a young, confused fellow whose planet is governed by the edicts of the Sponsor . . . commercials and TV shows from Earth's 1950s that travel through space and are interpreted by his planet's rulers as gospel. But Sunoco runs afoul of this civilization, of its gene police and other repressive groups, when he finds himself involved with an alien woman, when he's tormented by strange dreams that push him in dangerous directions, and when he utilizes his innate capacity for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time! Little does he realize that he has the power to transform his hate-filled, commercial-addicted culture — by exploring the power of his own emotions! Rick Veitch, the bizarrely imaginative writer/artist who brought you THE ONE, and EPIC ILLUSTRATED's "Abraxas and the Earthman," creates a beautiful, astonishing work of science fiction that reminds us both of humanity's potential for stupidity and destruction, and of the ultimate resiliency of the human heart and spirit.

SUPER BOXERS

by Ron Wilson, with John Byrne and Armando Gil. $5.95

When you think of artists who can depict the human anatomy at its most powerful — sheer, muscular brawn — at the top of the list is always Ron Wilson, longtime artist of THE THING. Here Ron creates his own world, with the help of scripter **John Byrne** and inker **Armando Gil**. And it's a world of the future, where winning is everything, and losing is certain death! Corporations have usurped control of society from the government, and the only truly free people live in the Underground, where they must struggle daily to survive. **Max**, a young, tough boxer from the Underground, could be the new sensation in the illegal boxing matches that his world thrives upon — but he cannot suspect how his career, his heart, his entire life will be changed by the corporations that are secretly eyeing him. Before he knows it, Max is at the center of a power struggle that could mean life or death for the Underground, and it all rests upon his pugilistic skill, his combat know-how . . . and his ability as a SUPER BOXER!

STARSTRUCK

by Elaine Lee and Michael W. Kaluta. $6.95

Another launching point for an Epic Comics series, STARSTRUCK brings more meaning to the "Novel" part of the phrase "Graphic Novel"; there's more story and character sandwiched in between its covers than in a year's run of most series. Spun off from the avant-garde play of the same name, STARSTRUCK is zany, erotic, mysterious, action-packed, and different from anything you've ever seen before. The unique character creations of Elaine Lee include the gutsy **Galacia 9**, the rambunctious **Brucilla**, the android **Erotica Ann**, the covert operations group known as the **Galactic Girl Guides**, and many others whose hopes, fears, intrigues, and delusions weave around each other as they all strive for their own little slices of the intergalactic pie. Lovingly illustrated by the heralded science-fiction artist, Mike Kaluta, STARSTRUCK enjoys a visual detail that can move from comic caricature to dramatic tableau in the wink of an eye. Its characters are loving, tough, silly, and monstrous, but all of them adhere in one way or another to the recruting slogan of the Galactic Girl Guides: "It's a tough galaxy, but somebody's gotta live in it — it might as well be you!"

SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS TM and © 1987 by Bill Mantlo and Jackson Guice

SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS

by Bill Mantlo and Jackson Guice $5.95

From one of comics' hottest writer/artist teams, an amazing combination of genres: space fantasy, pirates, and super heroes! Young **Domino Drake** finds herself swept away on a pirate adventure, but the swashbucklers come from another dimension, and in some uncanny way, they're her blood relatives! The pirate queen **Raador** — the brutish **Servitor** — the double-dealing **Logik** — and of course, the cat, **Cap'n Kidd** — all are part of Domino's amazing odyssey that begins on the outer banks of North Carolina and ends aboard a sailing ship that plies the cosmic winds! Mantlo and Guice have lavished extra care on this pet project, which blossomed into the successful Epic Comics series, and their attention, dedication, love, and craft radiate from the pages, as they combine the romantic fantasy of **Howard Pyle** with the visual pyrotechnics of modern sf. If you've ever wondered what a pirate film would look like if it were made by **Lucasfilm** or **Spielberg** — look no further! Pick up SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS!

THE RAVEN BANNER

by Alan Zelenetz and Charles Vess $5.95

If SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS was inspired by **Howard Pyle** and similar sources, THE RAVEN BANNER owes its inspiration to **Arthur Rackham** and **Hal Foster**, for that spirit of heroic fantasy and adventure imbues every page of Charles Vess's magnificently painted panels. THE RAVEN BANNER is a tale of Asgard, of a warrior whose fate it is to carry that banner into battle for the forces of the realm eternal. Enchantments hold that will bring victory to whatever army brandishes the Raven Banner . . . but the warrior who carries the pennant itself will be doomed to death as the cost of victory! Now the mantle of responsibility has fallen to young **Greyval Grimson** — can he accept his heritage? Can he avoid it? Is certain death worth the cost of guaranteeing victory to your countrymen? If the tales of the **Warriors Three** recently spun in MARVEL FANFARE are to your liking, then THE RAVEN BANNER will provide you with more of the same, but in the larger, quality-bound Graphic Novel format that allows the full glory and majesty of Asgardian adventure to shine forth!

THE ALADDIN EFFECT

by James Shooter, David Michelinie, Greg LaRocque, and Vince Colletta. $5.95

Years ago, an issue of the AVENGERS featured the main team mowed down in defeat by a force of lethal super heroines: **the Black Widow, the Wasp, the Scarlet Witch**, and the just-debuting **Valkyrie**! The concept was a smash, and ever since then, tales banding together varying teams of super heroines have been a periodic delight to both super hero afficionados and admirers of the fair sex alike! THE ALADDIN EFFECT teams the **X-Men's Storm**, and **the Avengers Tigra, She-Hulk**, and the **Wasp**, in an adventure of, shall we say, remarkable proportions. Little **Holly-Ann Ember** lives in the tiny town of Venture Ridge, Wyoming, a town where her life *should* be as simple as the mountain wind. But it's not, because Holly-Ann has strange *powers* — and they're powers that mean danger for her and her family, not to mention the heroines she's always idolized who are unwittingly drawn into the fray! Will they be able to unravel the secret of the Aladdin Effect before it's too late? Well, being the heroines they are, the answer is probably yes, but before they do, they'll face danger and suspense that makes this one of their most memorable adventures, and one that will change the life of a little girl named Holly-Ann Ember — forever!

REVENGE OF THE LIVING MONOLITH

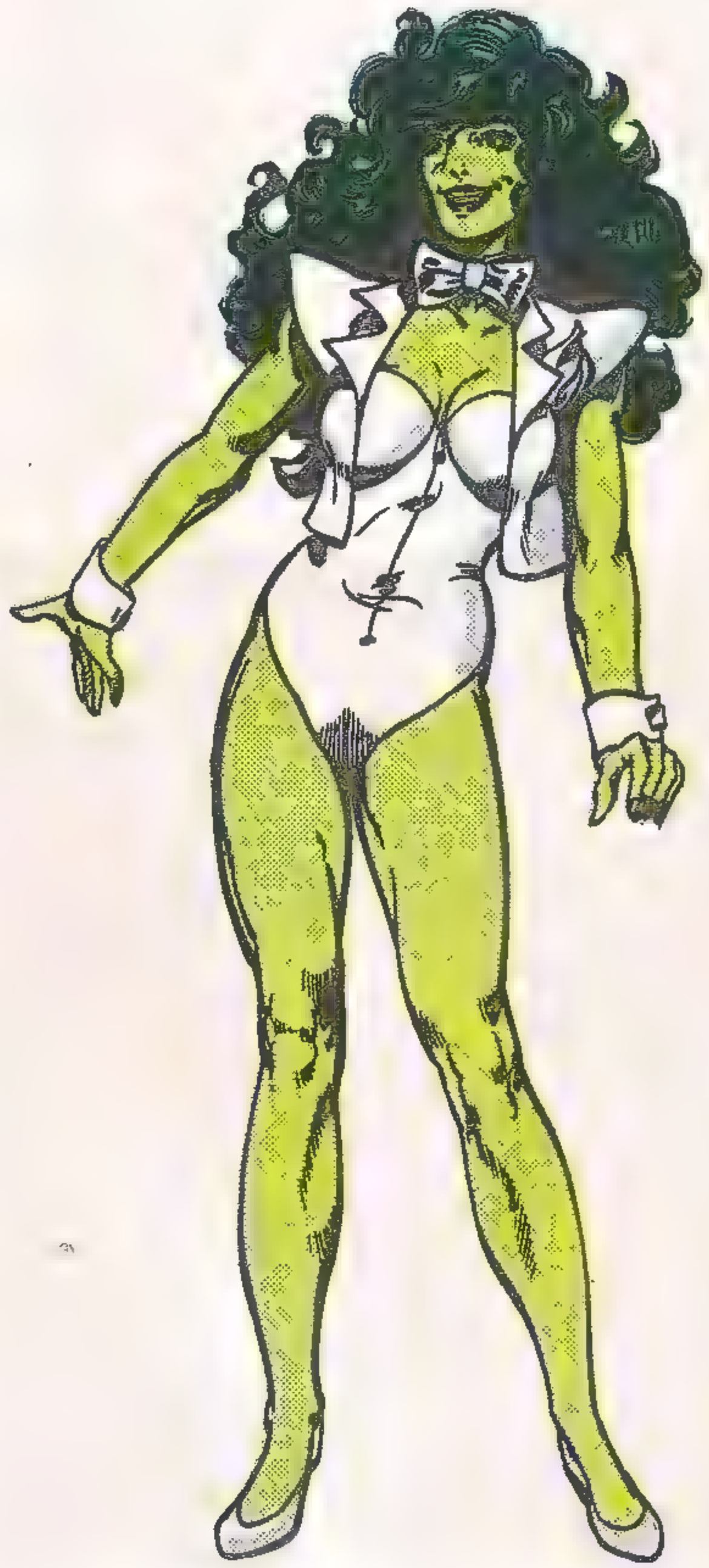
by David Michelinie, Marc Silvestri, and Geof Isherwood. $6.95

He's as tall as the World Trade Center — and he's not done growing! Before he's through, he may not only lay waste to New York City, but imperil the whole planet! He's the old **X-Men** foe, **the Living Monolith**, and this Graphic Novel not only reveals untold secrets about his origin, but also pits him against **Spider-Man, Captain America, the Fantastic Four**, and **the Avengers**! (It's one of those weeks when everybody happens to be in town!) Now, other Graphic Novels that we've been unveiling for you here are filled with cosmic revelations, mystic underpinnings, intricate character work and mature themes — REVENGE OF THE LIVING MONOLITH is straight superheroics, plain and simple! Let's face it, it'll take every Marvel hero in sight to defeat a man who not only menaces the world, but very soon might *be* the world! David Michelinie, current scripter on IRON MAN and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, scripts this tale of topnotch super hero action, and Marc Silvestri and Geoff Isherwood provide strong visual support.

THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK

by John Byrne and Kim DeMulder. $6.95

When she first got her own book, she was the **Savage She-Hulk**, but now that she's one of the darlings of Marveldom, we call her Sensational instead! **Nick Fury, Dum Dum Dugan**, and **Wyatt Wingfoot** guest-star in this exploit of the amazon Avenger, as narrated by John Byrne, with the inking and coloring talents of Kim DeMulder and **Petra Scotese**. A hyper-active S.H.I.E.L.D. security team hauls the She-Hulk in for custody — you have to be careful with these relatives of **Bruce Banner**, after all — but the She-Hulk's misfortune turns out to be S.H.I.E.L.D.'s luck, for it means she's aboard the heli-carrier when the espionage organization is faced with a strange threat unlike any it has ever experienced! Along the way, **Jennifer Walters'** life will be changed forever — no hype! THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK is a delightful action-adventure created by one of comicdom's top talents, and starring a heroine who has truly come into her own as one of Marvel's main attractions!



CONAN THE BARBARIAN in THE WITCH QUEEN OF ACHERON

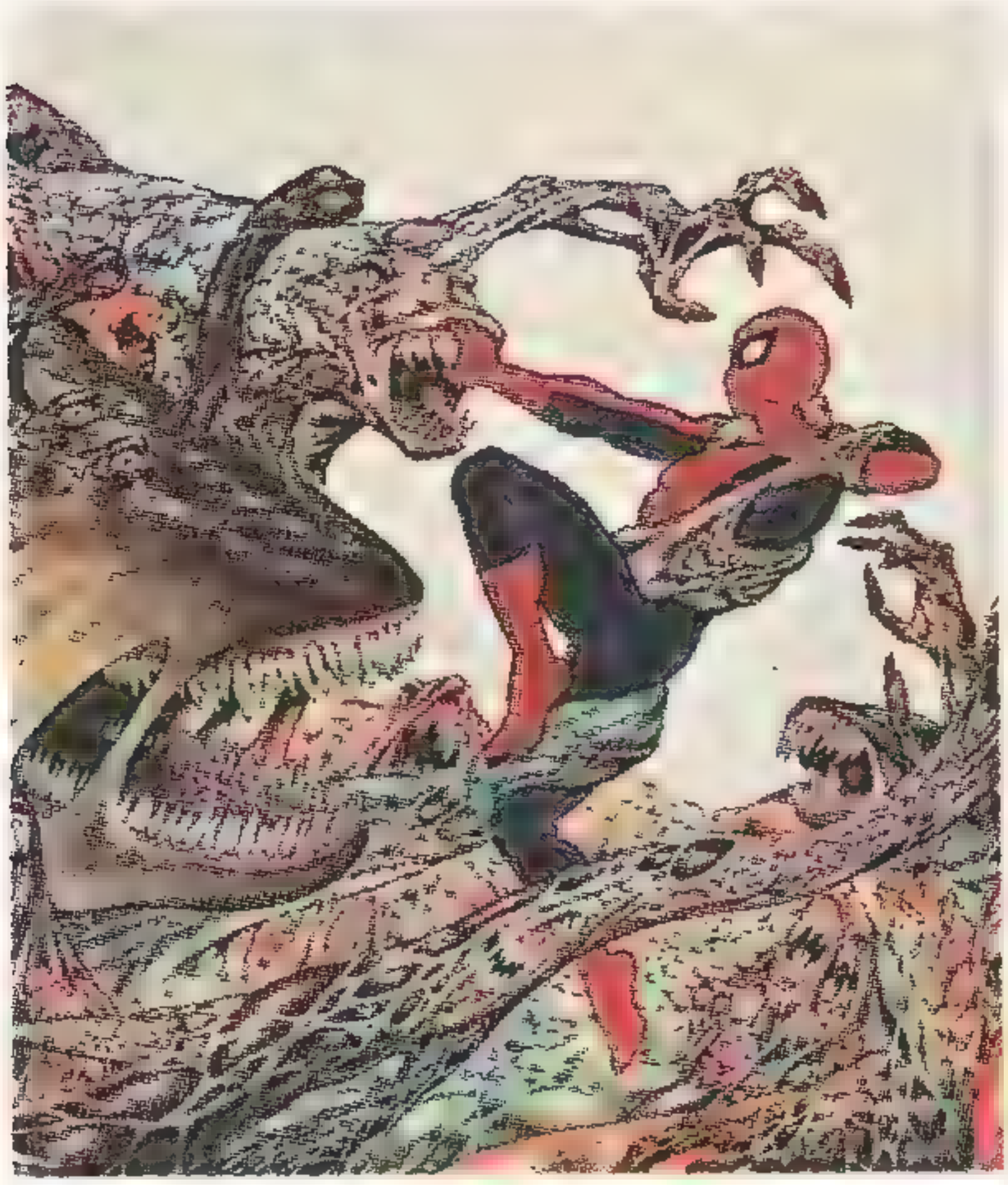
by Don Kraar, Gary Kwapisz, and Art Nichols $6.50

The savage Cimmerian unwillingly falls in with a pack of rogues searching for the treasure of the lost city of Acheron. But like any good treasure, it has a guardian — the long-dead, legendary witch queen of Acheron, **Xaltana**. To some foolish eyes, Xaltana may look like an ancient corpse; ancient evil, however, has a certain way of returning again and again in the Hyborian Age! Before they know it, **Conan** and the tavern wench **Magda** will be face to face with a terror that can pluck a man's heart from his body (and that does so, often, with great relish!), and that overcomes death to spawn nameless monstrosities! Don Kraar, veteran CONAN scripter, teams with two of fantasy's upcoming young artists to produce a sword-and-sorcery epic that contains all the traditional elements — monsters, treasures, battles to the death, and of course, alluring women — but with the additional glory of the Graphic Novel grandeur! Know, O Prince, that no true Conan fan should miss it!

GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE

by J.M. DeMatteis and Mark Badger $6.95

You've never read a vampire story like GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE . . : how many vampires do you know who have steady girlfriends, writer's block, or mothers who will always feed them chicken soup? (Of course, if you know any vampires at all, maybe we should talk . . .) **Oscar Greenberg** dated a girl a few decades ago, they got romantically involved . . . and she forgot she shouldn't use her fangs! Now he's a vampire, and an established writer of horror fiction, and while it rankles him that he can't even wear his Star of David, he makes out okay — until a supernatural menace even older than the curse of the vampire rears its head, and tries to claim Oscar for its own unholy purposes! Can Oscar, his shiksa girlfriend, his family, and his rabbi fend off a threat that was old when the earth was young? From the creator of MOONSHADOW, from the team that brought you the GARGOYLE Limited Series: a very special tale about sin, redemption, the magic of love . . . and of course, the healing power of chicken soup!



MARADA THE SHE-WOLF TM and © 1987 by Christopher S. Claremont and John Bolton.

MARADA THE SHE-WOLF

by Christopher Claremont and John Bolton $5.95

Her father was a slave publicly executed; her mother was the firstborn of Caesar. Had events happened differently, she might have been a Queen — but as a woman warrior known and respected throughout the Empire, she wouldn't trade her present life for anything. Her adventures have been chronicled in EPIC ILLUSTRATED, but **Marada's** greatest saga is presented here, as the She-Wolf must summon up not only every iota of her strength and talent for combat, but also every bit of her will and her heart to stand against demons who rape not only the body but the soul! Claremont's poetic wordsmithing and Bolton's consummate illustrative skill make MARADA THE SHE-WOLF not only one of the most beautiful Marvel Graphic Novels, but a work of fantasy fiction that bids fair to become a standard in the genre.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN in HOOKY

by Susan K. Putney and Berni Wrightson $5.95

It's one of Web-Head's most unusual adventures, as he generously volunteers to do a favor for a sweet, blonde, teenage girl. **Mandi Sjorokker** has known him for years, after all — she used to run the paper route when **Peter** was living with his **Uncle Ben**. Funny thing, though . . . Mandi hasn't aged at all since that time . . . and the favor she needs will take Peter Parker, **the Spectacular Spider-Man**, literally out of this world and into another dimension, where he and Mandi will face the unceasing, invincible menace of **the Tordenkakkerlakk**! And if you wonder what that phrase might mean in English, you won't believe your eyes when you see it! But the real threat to Spidey isn't even physical, but moral — ever since the death of Uncle Ben, he's never turned his back on wrongdoing, right? So how can he handle it when the best way to help Mandi defeat this soul-devouring terror may well be to stand aside and hope for the best? An amazing delight of a story that serves as a shining example of the Spider-Man spirit — the power, the responsibility, and yes, the humor, as well! Illustrated by Berni Wrightson, HOOKY is both a wonderful introduction to anyone unfamiliar with the web-slinger (if there are any like that on the face of the Earth), and a wonderful change-of-pace adventure for his lifelong fans.

DAREDEVIL: LOVE AND WAR

by Frank Miller and Bill Sienkiewicz $6.95

The Kingpin has built an empire on human sin. But his wife, **Vanessa**, is in deep shock, traumatized from her experiences in the city's underground. For months he has tried to cure her . . . to no avail. Now he has a chance. But it means resorting to kidnaping, extortion, possibly even torture and murder. And that's when his plans bring him up against his most persistent nemesis, **Matt Murdock** . . . better known to you all as **Daredevil**, the Man Without Fear! From the writer/artist who has won awards right and left for his revitalization of the masked adventurer . . . from the fellow artist whose work on MOON KNIGHT and THE NEW MUTANTS has left readers gasping in amazement . . . and from the team that brought you Epic Comics' acclaimed mini-series, ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN . . . it's the ultimate confrontation between Daredevil and the Kingpin, a tale that virtually bristles with the raw violence and disturbing power of its urban landscape. Comics history in the making!

DRACULA: A SYMPHONY IN MOONLIGHT AND NIGHTMARES

by Jon J Muth $6.95

Jon J Muth, whose evanescent, luminous artwork brought life to the Epic Comics hit, MOONSHADOW, dazzles you with more mystery and beauty in this retelling of the legendary **Bram Stoker** tale. The horror of **Dracula** has been retold in more formats than one can count, but the grace and delicacy of Muth's approach remain unique. If the original tale is new to you, discover for the first time the suspense of an ages-old terror that moves from central Europe to an unsuspecting England, seducing innocents into the profanity of the vampire. If the tale is familiar to you as your own nightmares, you still owe it to yourself to experience this sensually unsettling rendition, that will make you view the encounters between Dracula and **Lucy** as a tragedy, as a romance, as a dark account of love and cruelty rarely combined. It's nothing more or less than the poetry of fear.

DOCTOR STRANGE: INTO SHAMBALLA

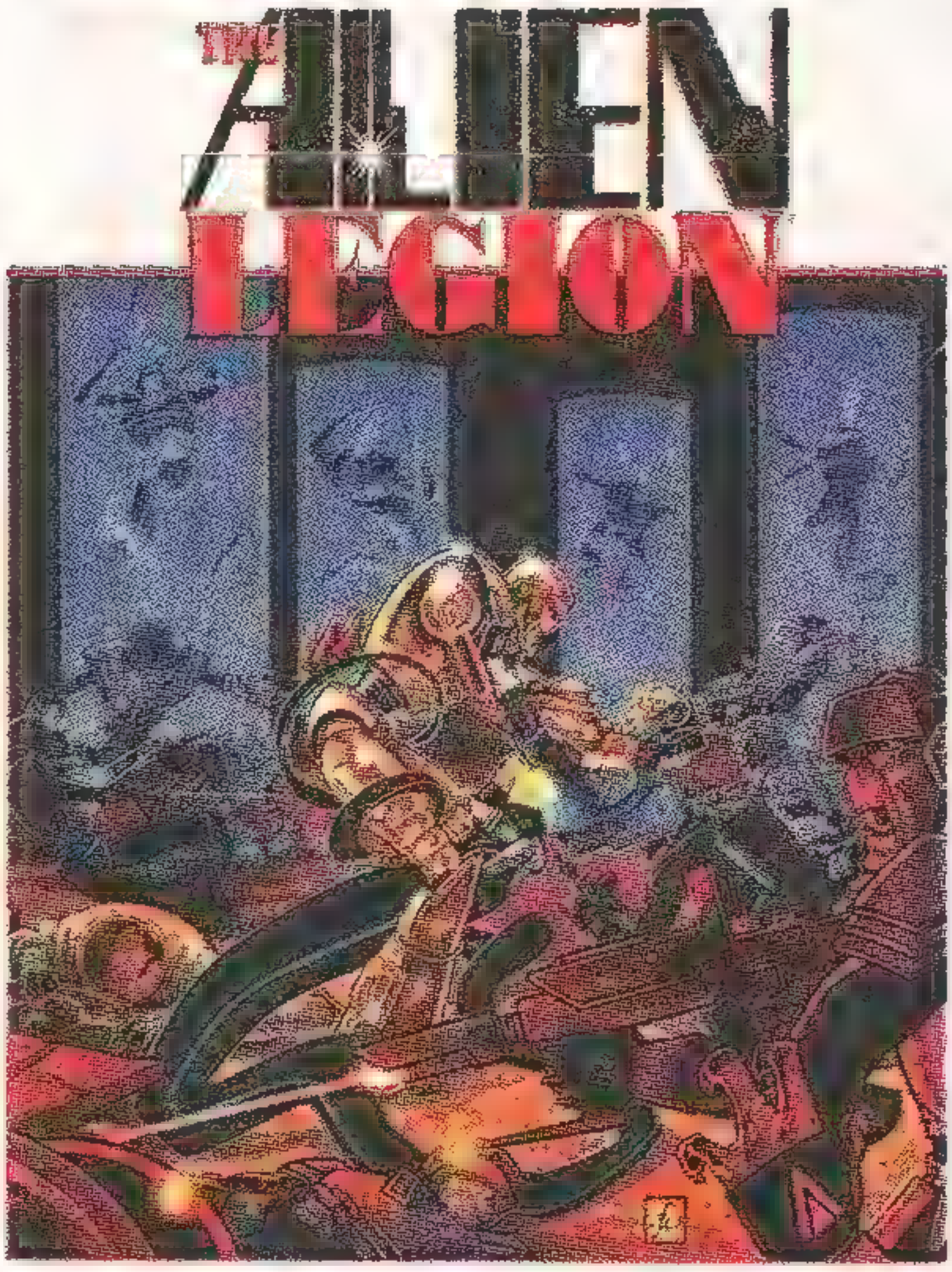
by J.M. DeMatteis and Dan Green $5.95

Through years of writing THE DEFENDERS, J.M. DeMatteis knows **Dr. Strange** well. Through his successes with BLOOD, MOONSHADOW, and THE GARGOYLE, he's proven his talent for the mysterious, the poetic, and the macabre. All are combined in INTO SHAMBALLA, an apocalyptic tale of the Sorcerer Supreme. **Stephen Strange** journeys back to Tibet, to the home of **the Ancient One**, to meet again with **Hamir the Hermit** and receive an astonishing gift. That gift takes him to the otherworldly paradise of Shamballa, whose lords wish to usher in a new Golden Age for Earth! There's only one catch — while the world will know nirvana, three-quarters of its population must die — and Dr. Strange must help! Is the Master of the Mystic Arts willing to pay the price of eternal peace? Or is there another way? Beautifully painted by master craftsman Dan Green, INTO SHAMBALLA teaches and reveals to Dr. Strange — and to its readers — a side of the human spirit rarely glimpsed, and little treasured, but vital to our survival.

THE ALIEN LEGION

by Carl Potts, Alan Zelenetz, Frank Cirocco, Terry Austin, and Steve Oliff $5.95

"Make the choice yours, soldier, when the time draws nigh — A bright day to live, a grey day to die." That choice faces the members of **Nomad Squadron**, the tough-as-tungsten **Legionnaires** who fight it out regularly in the pages of Epic's ALIEN LEGION series. **Sarigar**, snake-like commander; vicious **Jugger Grimrod**; the naive medic **Meico**; the altruistic **Torie Montroc**; the well-meaning **Skathe Mescad** — all of them face one of their direst challenges in this extra-length adventure, as what looks like a routine invasion (if any are routine) has deeper roots that reach to the core of what a Legionnaire stands for! Can Torie Montroc kill in cold blood? Can Sarigar best the man who trained him in battle? And which Legionnaire will not survive the grey day? From the creators of the ALIEN LEGION, perhaps their greatest adventure — and all in the quality-bound, lavishly-painted grandeur of a Marvel Graphic Novel!



EMPEROR DOOM

by David Michelinie and Bob Hall $5.95

The Mighty Avengers face their most disturbing threat — because it's a threat they don't even notice at first! You see, for years **Dr. Doom**, ruler of Latveria, has striven for world domination, often employing various forms of his hypno-ray. But while he's often had his goal practically in his hand, somehow it has always slipped away. When he finally gets his hypnotic technology perfected, then, he doesn't make a big fuss about it to alert his enemies — he just uses it! EMPEROR DOOM presents what happens when Doom literally takes over the world, remaking it in his image — the governments of the Earth, the armies, and even the super heroes all pledge loyalty to him unto death! But one of the Avengers is able, through an accident of luck, to resist Doom's sway. Which Avenger is it? And how will he or she be able to penetrate the hypnotic command that Doom holds over the other Avengers — especially when the world under Doom's rule doesn't seem so bad? Michelinie and Hall, superheroic chroniclers from way back, present this exploit of one of the Avengers' direst challenges.

CONAN THE REAVER

by Don Kraar and John Severin — 6.50

There are a few artists whose style is so distinctive, effective, and recognizable that they effortlessly withstand the test of time — and no matter how many times one sees their work, it's always a fresh pleasure. John Severin is one of these artists, whether he's drawing war stories, sword-and-sorcery tales, or other epics of high adventure — his is a tough, gritty realism that is as strong and commanding as it is filled with nuance and detail. Severin has rarely drawn Conan, which makes CONAN THE REAVER a special treat, for its saga of barbarians and sorcerers, of evil cults and magical treasures, is graced by his special talent. KING CONAN scripter Don Kraar has wisely recognized his luck in working with Severin on this second Conan Graphic Novel, for he has kept the dialogue and captions to a minumum, letting Severin's bold, unique art speak for itself whenever possible. The result is an especially memorable Graphic Novel that stands as a true testament to what graphic storytelling really means.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK AND THE THING in THE BIG CHANGE

by Jim Starlin and Berni Wrightson — $5.95

Who says comics in general, and Marvel Comics in particular, have forgotten to have fun? Here are Starlin and Wrightson, two of comics' most macabre wits, to prove them wrong! Sure, these gents can do cosmic and meaningful sagas with the best of them, but hey, once in a while, don't you just want some fun? Some action? Some sheer comic book fight scenes with no deeper significance than the paper they're printed on? THE BIG CHANGE is a duo adventure of **the Hulk** and **the Thing**, cast as **the Lennie** and **George** of the super-powered set, **the Felix** and **Oscar** of the unlimited strength club, the . . . well, you get the idea. But can even **Ben** and **Bruce**, crazy pals that they are, stand against **Banger McCrusher**, the alien who admires them so much he has made himself into a combination of their strengths and likenesses? Trust us — you've never seen anything like it! You deserve a break today — pick up THE BIG CHANGE!

—Brian Nelson

THE COMING

MOEBIUS™

YEARS AT MARVEL

Currently, there is no better example of Epic Comics' ongoing dedication to publishing high quality comics than the new series of **Moebius** Graphic Novels that premiered in May of 1987. For those few who are still unfamiliar with the name Moebius, it bears reapeating that it is the psuedonyum of French writer-artist **Jean Giraud**, one of the most famous cartoonists in the entire world.

These Graphic Novels are a real treat for American fans because, for the first time, Moebius's work is being reprinted in English and widely distributed uniform editions that are newly translated and edited by Moebius's agents, **Jean-Marc** and **Randy Lofficier**, colored under the personal supervision of Giraud and his wife, **Claudine**, and published with all the skill and care the Epic Comics staff can bestow.

But more than simply reprinting Moebius's science-fiction and fantasy stories, the Epic Moebius Graphic Novels are intended to be the *definitive* editions of his work; permanent, essential additions to the library of any fan who takes comics seriously, with forewords and afterwords by Moebius and his agents expanding on the stories and exploring Moebius's uniquely personal philosophy of comics.

The outstanding quality of the entire series can be directly attributed to Moebius's whole-hearted cooperation and supervision. Although most of the material in these graphic novels, with a few exceptions, is reprinted from somewhere else, the new translations and new colors ensure that the work will be essentially new because it will not have been seen in this form before. The translations provided by the

All illustrations TM and © 1987 by Moebius

Lofficiers are vast improvements over previous translations in terms of dialogue and story flow, essential elements in Moebius's work, which depends so much on subtlety and verbal wit.

Since much of the work in these books was originally published in black and white, Moebius is deeply involved in the coloring process, so much so that on certain pages he personally selects every color to be used on that page. The only black and white story so far has been "Detour," an hilarious seven-page masterpiece that Moebius insisted be printed in black and white because of the intricate, highly detailed style he used to illustrate it. "Detour" from 1973, is a very significant story in terms of Giraud's artistic development, because, according to Jean-Marc Lofficier, it represents, "the first true Moebius story." Prior to 1973, Giraud was most famous as "Gir," the name under which he drew *Lt. Blueberry*, the long-running western strip which is his best-known work in Europe. By the early 70s, Moebius was experimenting with new art styles and much different subject matter. Then, in 1975, he was one of the founding fathers of *Metal Hurlant*, the trend-setting French comics magazine that spawned the American *Heavy Metal*. It was for *Metal Hurlant*, *Pilote*, and *L'Echo des Savanes*, among others, that Moebius produced most of the work being reprinted in the Epic Graphic Novels.

Upon A Star, the first volume in the series, contained the first four stories in the "Aedena Cycle," which will continue in an upcoming volume in the series. One distinct advantage to publishing these uniform editions is that it allows Moebius to tie together the

"Aedena Cycle" with all of his other story cycles into a coherent Moebius universe.

Arzach, the second volume in the series, will also be linked up with other Moebius universes. The first indication of this is provided in the stories "Detour," and "The Legend of Arzach," a new five-page story which is the concluding story in this volume. "The Legend of Arzach" ties in with "Detour" by having Jean Giraud and his family (or their cartoon alter egos at any rate) meet Arzach in the silent adventurer's own bizarre dimension. It should prove extremely interesting seeing how Moebius ties in Arzach's universe with those of the "Aedena Cycle" and the cartoon Jean Giraud.

Which brings us to the third volume in the series, *The Airtight Garage*, a tour de force of Moebius's brand of surrealistic humor. *The Airtight Garage* is the longest volume in the series, running 120 pages, including one page done especially for this book, and contains all of the "Airtight Garage" stories.

The fourth volume in the series, *The Long Tomorrow and Other Science-Fiction Stories*, ties Moebius's comics career in with his career in films, since the title story in the collection was written by screenwriter **Dan O'Bannon** after Moebius and O'Bannon met while working on **Alejandro Jodorowsky**'s unfinished *Dune* film during the mid 70s. O'Bannon actually wrote "The Long Tomorrow" during a lull in the shooting of the film *Alien*, for which Moebius had been recruited to design the spacesuits and other costumes.

The fifth volume, *The Gardens of Aedena*, is the second chapter of the "Aedena Cycle" and will continue Moebius's unification of his various universes.

Volume Six in the series, *Pharogonesia and Other Stories*, will end the first series of Moebius Graphic Novels, but since he is such a prolific creator, there are still *hundreds* of pages of his comics that have never been seen by American audiences. Because the response to the first series of graphic novels has been so great, a second series of books is already in the planning stages. Whether it will consist of four books or six will depend on how the books are packaged, according to Editor Margaret Clark, who also informed MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE that the editors were considering doing a second printing of the sold-out first volume.

As for what lies ahead for Moebius, intrepid voyager in the realms of the fantastic, the next series will definitely be reprinting the entire *Black Incal* cycle, which was written by film director Jodorowsky. There should be plenty of material for this series as well, for it already consists of four books, with Moebius hard at work on the fifth. Moebius will be adding a third chapter, entitled *The Goddess*, to the "Aedena Cycle," with the fourth and fifth chapters as yet untitled.

As 1987 wanes, and 1988 glimmers on the horizon, the Moebius Graphic Novels are one of the most exciting developments in the comics industry. Indeed, even the first MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE article announcing the Moebius series was a milestone of sorts; it marked the first time Moebius had seen his artwork published using standard newsstand comics printing. Happily, Moebius was *very* pleased with the results and it has led to a special project that will be announced in these pages soon. It's this kind of attention, to even the smallest details that ensures that Epic's Moebius Graphic Novels will stand as the yardstick by which all future reprint collections will be judged.

—*Steve Ringgenberg*

An Open Letter from Santa Claus on the

NEW MARVEL® GRAPHIC NOVELS

Dear Marvel,

Greetings from the North Pole! This is just a quick note to let you know I've been making my list, checking it twice, and I'm currently in the process of finding out who's naughty and who's nice. At this writing, I don't see a single Bullpen name in the second column. Ho, ho, ho, just kidding!

But seriously, gang, I'm writing to thank all you people at Merry Marvel who have gone out of your way to make my job easier. As you know, tradition dictates that one night a year I fly around the world on a sleigh flown by eight magic reindeer and deliver presents to children all the world over (And you thought some guy being bitten by a radioactive spider was amazing!). I've often wished that I could extend this practice of gift-giving so that it takes place every month instead of once a year. Of course, elf labor laws being what they are, this has always been impossible.

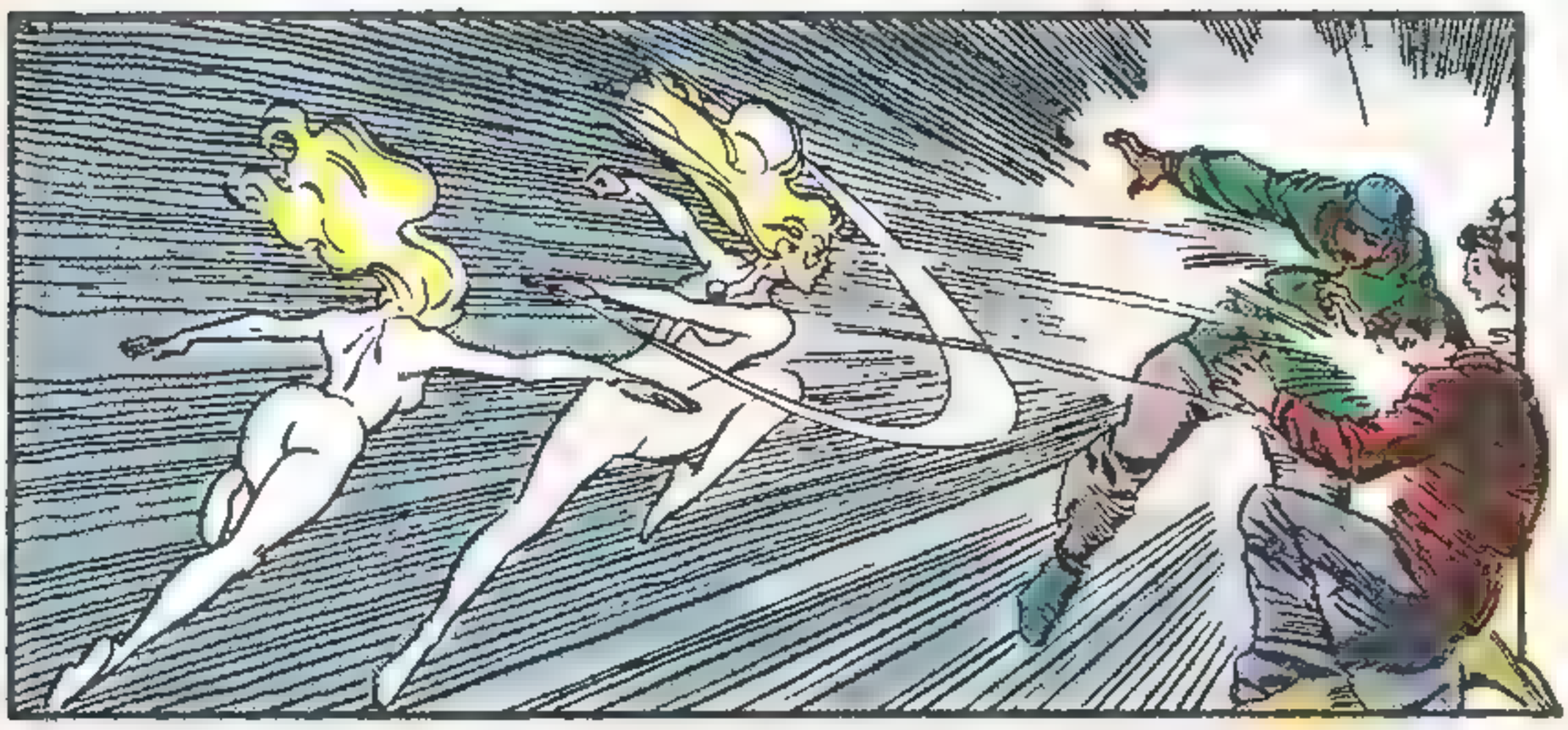
Impossible that is until 1988 — The Year of the Marvel Graphic Novel!

It recently came to my attention that you creative kibitzers at Marvel are planning to release one Graphic Novel a month for the next year! Believe me when I say I'm shaking like a bowl of jello just thinking about the excitement in store for a True Believer like Yours Truly.

I just picked up a copy of the recently released A SAILOR'S STORY. This autobiographical story of young **Sam Glanzman's** true-life experience during WWII is sure to keep me awake many a snowy night (Believe me, there are a lot of them where I live.). And to think he wrote and drew all 64-pages himself. (If only I were that talented I could have gotten a real job!)

Being a mythical creation of sorts myself, you can bet I'm looking forward to the I WHOM THE GODS WOULD DESTROY Graphic Novel. It's not enough that the book was plotted by **Jim Shooter**, scripted by **Jim Owsley**, drawn by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**, the fact that it's about the Thunder God coming to grips with such concepts as his own mortality and morality that places this on the top of my must-read list! (Granted I'm able to squeeze into a chimney by wiggling my nose, but how did you manage to squeeze such a gothic tale of psychological intrigue into only 64-pages?)

I know you think an old-fashioned guy like me would shy away from such a high-tech avant-garde concept as the IRON MAN Graphic Novel, but I can't wait to get my hands on this first-ever totally computer-generated masterpiece. The thought that one man, **Mike Saenz**, could write, illustrate, letter, and even color an entire Graphic Novel using a computer makes a two-thousand-year old man like me feel . . . less young. I'll certainly be able to relate to this futuristic epic of a retired **Tony Stark** who must don his battle armor one last time in order to keep his greatest creation from being used for nefarious purposes. If this is the



look of tomorrow's Graphic Novel, I'm going to bed early so that it comes quicker.

Concerned as I am with the plight of today's youth, I'm anxiously awaiting the WOLFPACK Graphic Novel. I've learned that this self-contained 80-page story about a gang of South Bronx street kids battling a centuries-old evil for the future of mankind is also the debut for a daring new Marvel "real time" Limited Series! Because creator and writer **Larry Hama** is working with penciler **Ron Wilson** and inker **Kyle Baker**, and it is color-painted by **Max Scheele, Petra Scotese**, and **Glynis Oliver** I'll be sure to have **Rudolph** camping out on the doorstep of my local comic book store. (South Bronx street gangs, centuries old evil, corporate corruption, and ninja warriors . . . It makes me glad I live here on the North Pole!)

Speaking of the plight of today's youth, perhaps no pair of teens has led a more tragic life than **Cloak** and **Dagger**. Their past adventures have proved them to be survivors. But when the spirit of **Jack the Ripper** enters their lives, can even their trust and commitment to each other survive? You can bet that I won't put down this Graphic Novel written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Larry Stroman**, inked by **Al Williamson**, and with a cover by **Kevin Nolan** until after the last page is read.

You'd better send me loads of copies of the 64-page DEATH OF GROO Graphic Novel. The bumbling barbarian is a big hit with all my pint-sized employees here at the old workshop, and they're excited about seeing a special cameo appearance by every supporting character that has crossed the pages of EPIC's longest-running series! I'm sure that the team of creator and artist **Sergio Aragones** and writer **Mark Evanier** will see to it that as the star of the most popular humor book on the market, Groo will bungle his death as surely as he's bungled everything else he's attempted. I'm told that if the beautiful hand-colored work by **Tom Luth** doesn't bring a tear to my eye, the dramatic and sensitive ending to this rib-tickling tome will indeed leave me with a deeper understanding and appreciation of everyone's favorite harbinger of hardy har hars.

THE SHADOW: HITLER'S ASTROLOGER has to be a personal favorite for the adventures of the great crime-fighter of the 1930s and 40s always kept me on the edge of my sleigh. And that such comics stalwarts as writer **Denny O'Neil**, penciler **Michael Kaluta**, and inker **Russ Heath** produced this gripping tale of World War II could not make it more of a delight for a pulp fiction fan like me.

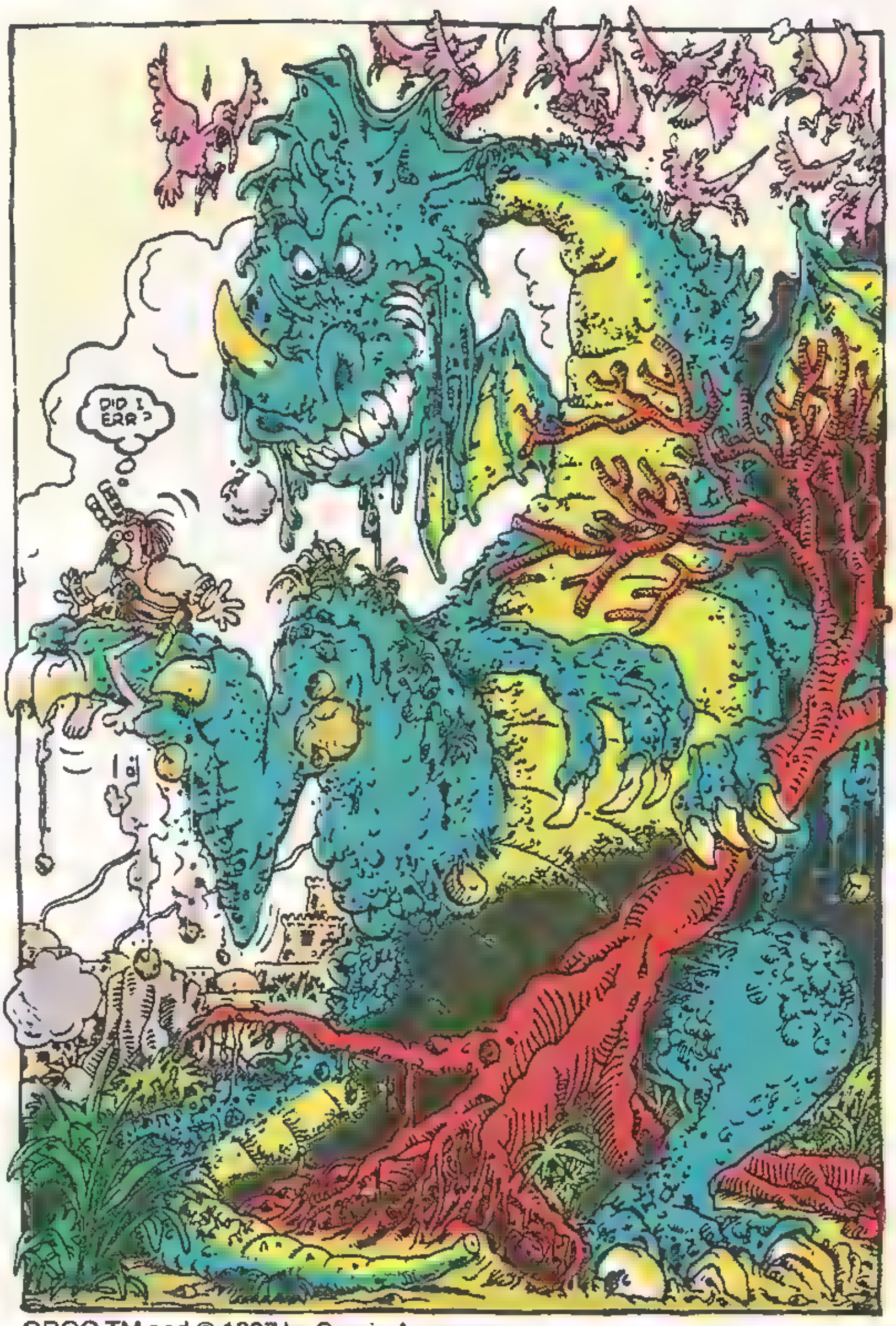
I realize these books will eventually be on sale in comic specialty shops across the country, but I'm hoping those three dozen train sets, a handful of Barbie dolls, and the jeweled crown and scepter I delivered to your office last year will give me an in with you people. After all, I love milk and cookies left for me by the chimney as much as the next guy, but a Marvel Graphic Novel is something I can cherish forever.

Until next year, Happy Holidays to All, and to All . . . Season's Readings!

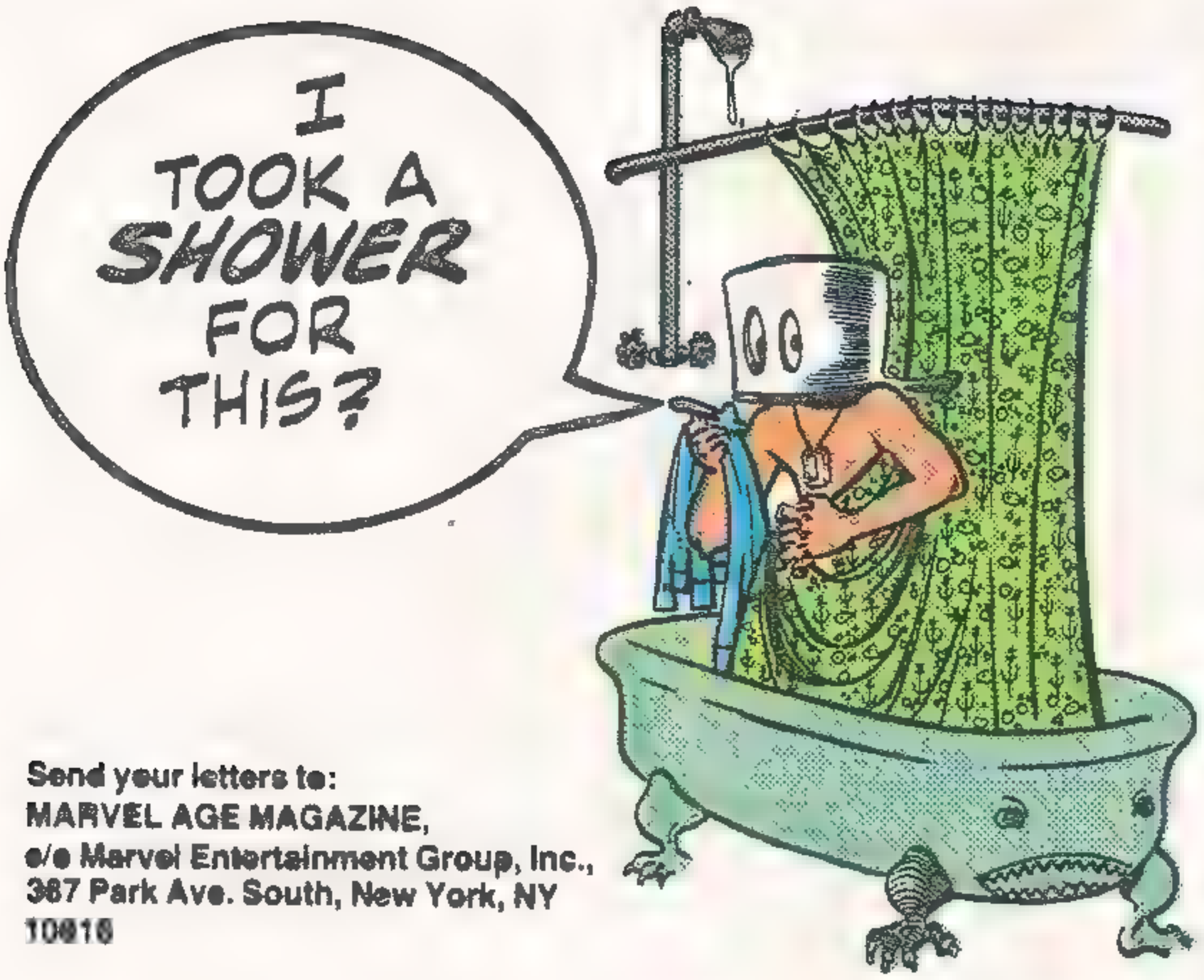
Yours,

Santa

Santa



GROO TM and © 1987 by Sergio Aragones



Send your letters to:
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,
c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc.,
387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016

This month's slightly soggy letter column title comes to us from Jason Denzer of Milwaukee, WI. Thanks a lot, Jason! Of course, this letter column isn't *the only* reason we took a shower, though. After all, if we don't shower at least once every 24 hours, our scales start to fall off and it gets hard to breathe.

And hey, all the rest of you out there, don't forget: We need a brand new title for this column each and every month. So get to work and send those titles in! We'll even print your name in this space as our way of saying "thanks." It might not be a free trip to the Bahamas, but it still ain't nothin' to sneeze at!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Wouldn't it be neat to have a CLASSIC IRON MAN and a CLASSIC AVENGERS and a CLASSIC SPIDER-MAN and a CLASSIC FF (maybe even a CLASSIC HOWARD THE DUCK)? And wouldn't it be totally awesome to bring back WHAT IF . . . ? for all your young readers?

These and many more exciting questions were asked by:

Scotty Minarcine
"Scooter the Terrible"

We're really glad you wrote in, Scotty; we've always wanted to print a letter from someone named "Scooter!" Anyway, on to your questions:

Sorry, there aren't any plans just yet for any of the CLASSIC series you suggested. But if you hurry, you may still be able to find copies of the MARVEL MASTERWORKS volumes! Each volume reprints the first ten issues of a classic Marvel series in a long-lasting (not to mention darned spiffy) hardcover edition. There are three MARVEL MASTERWORKS books, featuring THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, and THE X-MEN. Buy two copies, and save one for your grandchildren!

Oh, and as for your WHAT IF . . . ? request, well . . . Keep your eyes peeled for WHAT IF . . . ? SPECIAL #1! It should be available in about thirty days or so. Hey, is that service or what?

Dear Marvel Comics,

One day I went over to my friend's house and I asked him if he had any comic books. Then I asked him, could I see one? It was excellent. I am not a good reader and I need a lot of books so I can learn how to read better, and I need some real old books so I can have the right words I need.

I am 12 years old. I hope you write back.

Larry Mitchell

Thanks for writing, Larry. Your letter really made our day. And it just helps confirm something we've been saying for a long time: Comic books are a great way to introduce people to the fun of reading! That's why Marvel took part in a nationwide literacy campaign not long ago. So if anybody out there has a friend or relative who has trouble reading or who just doesn't like to read, why not lend him or her one of your faverite comic books? You might open up a whole new world for someone. Almost like having super powers, isn't it?

And, Larry, if you want to find great books, old and new, a good place to start is you local public library. Ask the librarians to suggest some books for you. They'll be glad to help!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I am writing because I couldn't figure out whose signature was under the **Peter** and **Mary Jane** picture on the back cover of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #54. Was it **Bill Sienkiewicz's**?

Chris Lum
72 Gray St.
Arl., MA 02174

Nice work, Chris! You hit the nail right on the head. That striking portrait was indeed the work of ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN illustrator Bill Sienkiewicz. Bet you didn't know he also did weddings and bar mitzvahs, huh?

Hey, kids, what time is it? You guessed it — it't time for our LETTER OF THE MONTH! Each month, we pick a letter (or sometimes two) that really piques our interest. Then we print it against one of our ever-popular yellow backgrounds so that everyone else can get a "pique" at it too. (Groan.)

Back in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #56, we printed a letter from two people who were concerned about the directions in which they felt Marvel was heading. This month, that controversy resumes.

Dear Marvel,

Alan Michael and **Paul Pickard's** letter in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #56 spoke of some very real concerns surrounding the Marvel Comics heroic image. I feel these concerns were dismissed with too little introspection into the true feelings behind their carefully chosen words. I, too, am concerned with what I've seen happening at Marvel in the last few years. The "depressing storylines and dark, unhappy conflicts" being depicted so often and in so many of the titles may *seem* to be only reflections of an '80s reality, but in fact leave your regular readers with a sour aftertaste of life's projected future.

You defend the **Angel's** suicide rightly, however. Although I also was "distressed" by the Angel's "death," I felt that this particular storyline/plot was not part of the problem I am

speaking of. What I think Alan and Paul had in mind was the veritable onslaught your readers have had to endure; the onslaught of defeat and destruction given us to keep track of in each and every book. For me, it began to take its toll during **Chris Claremont's Sleazoid** saga in X-MEN. (You must have noticed the book's declining popularity.) It was then we were dealt a depressing year's worth of a storyline in which our favorites were forced to confront death, death and more death. Now, this statement in and of itself is misleading. Every super hero deals with death, but Chris's **X-Men** were made to do more than deal with death's reality, they were made to experience it firsthand . . . and live? We had death ground into us with **Storm's** reforming after a Sleazoid metamorphosis, followed by the subsequent loss of her powers. We had **Kitty Pryde's** instant "ninja" rebirth, **Jean Grey's** resurrection, the Angel's capture and torture together with the whole Mutant Massacre, **Daredevil's** disillusionment and spiritual defeat, the *collective* death *and reanimation* of the **New Mutants**, the mutilation and restoration of the **Power Pack** children, all presented to us in a befuddled mess without direction, reason, or respite, only to be followed by (culminate in?) the heralded "Fall of the Mutants" this September! Do you see a pattern forming here? GIVE US SOME AIR BENEATH THE BODIES, PLEASE! How many time do you expect to blast these characters to atoms, reform them, and still have us give a damn?

What's happening here is that you are desensitizing an entire audience. Worse than that, you are desensitizing readers younger than myself — and this is important. As a child, I came to comics seeking all the wonder, beauty, and justice my own experiences had failed to supply. I believe that readers still come to comics for much the same reasons, especially the youngest ones. Your company cannot last long if these readers also perceive a lack of sensitivity in the work — they have little reason to stick around because they don't have the memory of what these characters once were to sustain them. Truth to tell, the losses have become unbearable even to your longtime readers since we find it less painful to stop reading than to stop caring.

What am I asking you to do? Just this: please look into your work. Just this month, I read DAREDEVIL #249 and saw more evidence of the editorial death and destruction policy. Dare devil is supposed find a serial killer who goes by the name of **Bushwacker**. Bushwacker has an arm which converts to any type of gun imaginable. The murders he commits are disgusting — as our villian is supposed to be, I guess. However, we enter the story through the eyes of **Wolverine**, a hero who has been (before now) portrayed as a berserker but nonetheless a noble, honest and brave man. A man of justice and great inner strength and one of your most popular characters. The vision we are given in this issue is not consistent with these attributes. Writer **Ann Nocenti** forgets that comics are a graphic medium and forgets that it requires few words of explanation accompanied by meaningful dialogue. When the story moves to its predictable and telegraphed conflict between hero Wolverine and hero Daredevil, we are given five panels in which **Logan** repeats the same command to Daredevil four times. Did your editor read the following exchange and find it plausible?

WOLVERINE: Get outta my way or I'll kill you. (Page 16, panel 1)

DD: He deserves a trial.

WOLVERINE: . . . Now get outta my way or I swear I'll kill you. (Panel 3)

DD: We are not judges. We are not murderers.

WOLVERINE: Get outta my way. Get outta my way or I [sic] claw my way through you! (Panel 4)

DD: We are not killers.

WOLVERINE: Now get outta my way or I'll kill you. (Panel 5)

Didn't reading this tire you? Couldn't you think of so many other ways of handling this? Didn't the repetition and mindless threats bring you down? Didn't it bring down your soul to know that a hero of clean justice would threaten the life of another hero of clean justice? Where were the thought balloons to distill our fears? Where was the reason to give your readers to care how it all came out?

Please listen. It may seem to you that I've ripped into a single issue just

DAREDEVIL!?
GET OUTTA MY WAY OR I'LL KILL YOU!
NO! WE BRING HIM IN ALIVE! HE DESERVES A FAIR TRIAL!
YOU IDIOT! HE'S NOTHING BUT A KILLER!
THIS IS WAR. WAR ON MUTANTS! NOW GET OUTTA MY WAY OR I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU!
WE'RE NOT JUDGES! IF HE TURNS YOU INTO A MURDERER, HE'LL BE VICTORIOUS!
SHUT UP AND GET OUTTA MY WAY!
BUSHWACKER'S A LIVING GUN! EVERY TIME HE REACHES OUT HIS HAND IT'S TO KILL!
FOR WACKER, TO TOUCH IS TO POINT A GUN!
WAIT! WE'RE NOT MURDERERS!
GET OUTTA MY WAY OR I CLAW MY WAY THROUGH YOU!
HE'S A MUT-AND-PROUD MAN!
WE'RE NOT KILLERS!
LOOK, ALL I GOT ARE THESE CLAWS. THESE FISTS!
AND WITH THAT FLAMIN' COSTUME ON, IT'S ALL YOU GOT, TOO!
NOW GET OUTTA MY WAY OR I'LL KILL YOU!

to make a point. But I might have used any of your other titles to tell you that reading Marvel Comics lately has made me feel like one thing: Giving up. Just as Alan Michael and Paul Pickard said in their letter, "it is not necessary to portray death and destruction all the time." I wish to add to that and say that it is impossible for readers to spiritually withstand the constant onslaught on and by characters we come to in order to fulfill our craving for beauty and justice in life. By the very nature of a hero, he/she is an extension of our beliefs and moral selves. Our heroes are part of our individual self-images and our future lives.

Since you have already collectively proven so adept at creating heroes which are much loved, my advice would be to bring the threats our heroes face back down to a level which will be more personal, more fathomable to the readers. To tell you the truth, most (if not all) of us understand that in a battle against death, we cannot win. Death is a given. What we want to see is that evil can be fought against and that life prevails. You need to give us back the footholds for these characters, or else it isn't fun anymore.

For my final note, I repeat these words passed down to me from one of the world's true heroes:

"With great power comes great responsibility."

I say to you, creators at Marvel Publishing, *yours* is the power.

Victoria Schodowski
P.O. Box 849
Glassboro, NJ 08028

You've addressed some important issues, Victoria, and raised some valid criticisms (although we don't agree with everything you've said, of course). We could reply to what you've written by addressing each point in your letter and giving our side, but truthfully, we'd rather keep our mouths shut for now and hear what other people have to say on the topic instead. Comments, anyone?

Before we move on, we do want to say one thing about your letter, Victoria. We think you've misread DAREDEVIL #249 slightly. Yes, Wolverine does want to kill Bushwacker; Wolverine is not above killing when necessary, and Bushwacker has been killing mutants — Wolverine's people. But (and this is a big but) Wolverine would never have killed Daredevil. If you want proof, look at the next page of the story. Even when Wolverine discovers the corpse of another victim, whose death Wolverine blames DD for, Wolverine claws Daredevil's costume but doesn't touch the flesh underneath!

You're absolutely right about Wolverine being a hero. He wouldn't kill DD for no reason. And that's why he repeated his "threat" so many times. It was a bluff. Pure and simple. After all, think about it: Have you ever seen Wolverine warn *anyone* five times before attacking?

Oh, by the way, Victoria, we'd like to add that we do appreciate your writing to us. It's clear from your letter that you really do care about Marvel and our characters, and that's what keeps us going. We hope you'll stick around to see what happens next and let us know how you feel about it. (And that goes for everybody else, out there too.)

Now, back to the lighter side . . .

MARVEL AGE Maniacs,

I have pledged myself to the ultimate task: I will write to everyone who appears in the Marvel Age Pen Pals Column. No matter how many people that is, I will write. So to everyone who wrote in to the Pen Pals Column, expect your letter from

Warlock

Considering how overwhelming the response to the Pen Pals Column has been, that sounds like a pretty tall order to us, Warlock! Hope you've got plenty of stamps.

And what better way could there be to segue into this month's installment of the Marvel Age Pen Pals Column? Here's another bunch of friendly folks who are looking for people around the world to correspond with. Drop them a line! You might make a friend.

And in the meantime, if you'd like to be listed in the Pen Pals Column yourself, simply send your name, address, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel Comics to Marvel Age Pen Pals at the address at the top of this letter column.

Ready? Here we go with some more pen pals:

Tim Cifell
608 Mansfield Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, G.I. JOE

Kenny Mok
32 Northdale Rd.
Frizing Hall
Bradford, West Yorkshire
BD9 4HG
UNITED KINGDOM
Age: 20
Favorites: G.I. JOE, AVENGERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA

Micah Acox
Rt. 2, Box 81
Wheelersburg, OH 45694
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, X-FACTOR

David Cooksey
Rt. 3, Box 402
Cameron, TX 75620
Age: 15
Favorites: THE 'NAM, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE

Mike Petrie
34159 Gem Circle
N. Ridgeville, OH 44039
Age: Didn't say
Favorites: X-MEN, AVENGERS, SPIDER-MAN

Robert C. Cramer
25 N. Potomac St. Apt. 307
Waynesboro, PA 17268
Age: 40
Favorites: FANTASTIC FOUR, POWER PACK, AVENGERS

Danny Morrow
2100 Hawthorne St.
Crest Hill, IL 60435
Age: 20
Favorites: AVENGERS, X-MEN, WEST COAST AVENGERS

Sam Melendez
7621 Inland Dr.
Olmstead Falls, OH 44138
Age: 15
Favorites: POWER PACK, X-MEN, AVENGERS

Douglas Darnielle, Jr.
7789 Gov. Davis Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70811
Age: 18
Favorites: STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE STAR BRAND

Amanda Killgore
1435 Sue Barnett
Houston, TX 77018
Age: 18
Favorites: X-MEN, ALPHA FLIGHT, NEW MUTANTS

MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. KILLRAVEN; start.
2. INTO SHAMBALLA; finish.
3. MARADA THE SHE-WOLF; finish.
4. STAR SLAMMERS; start.
5. THE ALADDIN EFFECT; finish.
6. SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS; start.
7. GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE; start.
8. THE RAVEN BANNER; finish.
9. THE X-MEN; finish.
10. THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK; start.
11. HEARTBURST; finish.
12. THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL; finish.
13. DAREDEVIL in LOVE AND WAR; start.
14. THE NEW MUTANTS; start.
15. REVENGE OF THE LIVING MONOLITH; finish.
16. CONAN THE REAVER; start.
17. DAZZLER: THE MOVIE; start.
18. VOID INDIGO; finish.
19. EMPEROR DOOM; finish.
20. ELRIC: THE DREAMING CITY; finish.

EXCALIBUR

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT, ALAN DAVIS AND PAUL NEARY

MUTANT HYSTERIA TAKES ON A WHOLE NEW MEANING!

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THE COOLEST HUNK IN AMERICA COMES TO COMICS!

ALF™

BY
MICHAEL GALLAGHER,
DAVE MANAK
AND MARIE SEVERIN

MONTHLY FUN FROM MARVEL®

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